Paris, Friday, March 12, 1999



Oskar Lafontaine, finance minister and Social Democratic leader, who quit after a cabinet showdown with Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder.

German Finance Minister Resigns

Lafontaine Departs in Tense Political Showdown With Schroeder

By William Drozdiak Washington Post Service

BERLIN - Oskar Lafontaine resigned from his posts as finance minister and party leader of the governing Social Democrats on Thursday after Josing a power struggle that had caused disarray in the ranks of Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder's government for

The surprise decision came in the wake of a bitter showdown between Mr. Schroeder and Mr. Lafontaine at a cabinet meeting Wednesday in which the chancellor accused his rival of committing "strategic errors" by alienating many German business leaders with his leftist economic policies.

In a terse statement on Thursday night that scarcely concealed the tensions between the two political rivals, Mr. Schroeder expressed curt thanks for Mr. Lafontaine's work and announced that the Social Democratic presidium would hold a special session Friday to choose its next chairman.

Senior aides said Mr. Schroeder would put his own name forward as the new party leader, which should help him consolidate power in a bid to shift toward a more pragmatic and moderate course for his gov-

As a sign of his intentions, officials said Mr.

Until Thursday, the German government had been an unwieldy two-headed creature. Page 6.

Schroeder would most likely name Hans Eichel, a probusiness Social Democrat, to the Finance Ministry

Mr. Lafontaine's demise was welcomed on financial and stock markets as investors anticipated more favorable policies. The euro, which will soon replace the German mark and 10 other European currencies, rose Thursday after having lost one-tenth of its value

against the dollar since January, largely because of worries about the fate of the German economy.

While Mr. Schroeder appeared to be stunned by Mr. Lafontaine's departure, political sources said he was elated by the opportunity to resolve a persistent split in his government that has sown confusion over the true nature of Germany's leadership and its policies.

Although the chancellor may have won the pow battle with his arch-nemesis within the party, he will no longer be able to exploit Mr. Lafontaine as a lightning rod for criticism. Aides said Mr. Schroeder realizes that he will now be held fully accountable by his party and by German voters - for the fate of his government policies.

But his long-standing promises to modernize Germany's economy and create new jobs for a labor force where more than 11 percent of all workers are now unemployed will remain difficult challenges to

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A Historic Day for European Geopolitics

NATO Awaits 3 States From Ex-Soviet Bloc

By Steven Erlanger New York Times Service

WARSAW — Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic will formally join NATO on Friday, having barely met the alliance's minimum military requirements for integrated air defense, security procedures and foreign lan-

But few doubt that they will bring real military benefits to the alliance over the next 5 to 10 years, as they make the slow shift from heavily armored and over-officered Warsaw Pact forces to more mobile, flexible and smaller Western armies.

They are already contributing with peacekeepers, logistics and intelli-gence to NATO's complicated efforts

to pacify the Balkans. By their history and geography, these new members will help to protect and even spread Western values of democracy and market economics in the shakier, frontier states between themselves and Russia's vast uncer-

They are, however, also eager to consolidate these same values at home, both to build up their own sense of confidence and that of foreign investors. It is not just three militaries oining NATO, but three st standard NATO provides for their transitional and still turbulent post-Communist societies.

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In a direct benefit for the United States, which pushed their membership the hardest, these new members will also provide strong support for Washington's aims inside NATO, officials of all three countries suggest. Six weeks before NATO's 50th an-

niversary summit in Washington where the Champagne and the rhetoric will flow in equally excessive quantities — NATO members are arguing about the alliance's future in a world where the threats to European security stem more from terrorism and instability, both ethnic and political, as in Kosovo, than from any traditional ad-

versary, like Russia. But for all three countries - and especially Poland, intermittently trampled by the Germans or the Russians — NATO membership provides not only real security, but also a sense of homecoming, a direct and unbreakable connection to the center of European civilization after a wretched cen-

Foreign Minister Bronislaw Gere-mek, a soulful historian of the medieval world, compares the importance of NATO accession to Poland's conversion to Christianity.

For President Alexander Kwasniewski, a former Communist and an altogether brasher politician, NATO means the end to the Yalta conference's division of Barope, when the West let Stalin draw lines of influence through Europe.

"This is the most important moment in our history," Mr. Kwasniewski whose leaders all welcome the moral returning to the place which is our proper home. Being in NATO means not only security for ourselves, but also our willingness to share risks about the future of Europe."

For the Czech president, Vaclav Havel, who was in jail 10 years ago, NATO means that "we will have a solid security anchoring for the first

See NATO, Page 2



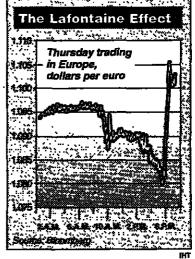
A New Era for Ins and Outs of the Alliance

Those countries left out of the NATO expansion feel now that, in spite of their disappointment over the delay, their security has been enhanced by the bridging of the former East and West military blocs.

Poland and Germany, two countries that lived for centuries back to back in hostility, suspicion, invasions and war, are now merging some military units. training programs and standardizing equipment and facilities. Page 2.

As Dow Nears 10,000 Level, Euro Hails Bonn Shake-Up

		_
تنبيكا	The Dollar	
New York	Thursday @ 4 P.M.	previous close
Euro	1.1032	1.0945
Pound	1.6364	1.6265
Yen	119.245	119.75
DM	1.773	1.7866
FF	5.9463	5.9919
Dollars per pour	nd and per éuro.	
	The Dow	
	Thursday close	percent change
+ 124.60	9,897.44	+ 1.27%
	S&P 500	
4		
+10.84	1,297.68	+ 0.84%
	Nasdaq	
1		
+6.24	2.412.24	+ 0.26%



U.S. stocks rose toward a second straight record close Thursday on signs the economy continued to expand. Meanwhile, the euro shot up after the German finance minister stepped down. (Page 13)

Albright Rejects Attack On Policy Toward China

By Eric Schmitt New York Times Service

WASHINGTON - Secretary of State Madeleine Albright is seeking to defend U.S. policy toward China in the face of concerted Republican attacks on the Clinton administration's handling of suspicions that China stole nuclear technology from the Los Alamos labora-

Mrs. Albright, testifying Wednesday before a House panel less than a week after visiting China, said that the theft of nuclear secrets from the lab was a "very serious issue" that the CIA was assessing. But she argued that it should not dominate efforts to remain engaged with Beijing on a variety of issues from human rights to trade policy, which the administration is trying to negotiate separately. Leading congressional Republicans were unswayed by that argument, as they have been from the start. Instead they went on the attack, accusing the administration of not taking the theft seriously enough at first and then of not

adequately briefing Congress. Senators Richard Lugar of Indiana and Trent Lott of Mississippi, the ma-

jority leader, demanded better explanations from Congress. The uproar, inevitably, bled into the political arena, with two presidential hopefuls, Patrick Buchanan and Steve Forbes, each accusing President Bill Clinton's national security adviser, Samuel (Sandy) Berger, of "dereliction of duty," and demanding that he resign for failing to keep Congress adequately informed about the theft.

The administration says it briefed lawmakers beginning in 1996 on suspicions that China had acquired important nuclear bomb-building technology from Los Alamos. [China bristled at the charge of mil-

itary espionage. On Thursday, the For-eign Ministry spokesman, Zhu Bang-zao, said the allegation was "groundless and extremely irresponsi-ble," Agence France-Presse reported from Beijing. "We hope the U.S. govemment can take effective measures to reduce trouble and remove obstacles to ensure the stable development of China-

U.S. relations," he said.] Mr. Berger, traveling with Mr. Clin-

See ALBRIGHT, Page 6

Clinton Apologizes for U.S. Policy in Guatemala War telligence units which engaged in vi- States had given money and training to of Guatemalan military officers in coun-

By John M. Broder New York Times Service

GUATEMALA CITY - President Bill Clinton has apologized for U.S. support for rightist governments in Guaternala that killed tens of thousands of rebels and Mayan Indians in a 36-year civil war, and he promised American support for national reconciliation.

At a forum with Guatemalan leaders, Mr. Clinton said: "For the United States, it is important that I state clearly that support for military forces and in- February, concluded that the United

olence and widespread repression was wrong, and the United States must not repeat that mistake."

He made the statement in his opening remarks Wednesday to an informal gathering of leaders from many sectors of Guatemalan society, including prominent Indians, women, government officials and representatives of a truth commission that recently issued a report

on the civil war. A commission report, released late in

Guatemalan forces that committed acts of genocide against Mayans and other extreme human-rights abuses during the brutal conflict here, which began in

CIA involvement in Guatemala's campaign of terror against Mayan and leftist insurgents had long been an open secret, but the report of the Historical Clarification Commission confirmed the CIA's participation in a civil war

that killed more than 200,000 people. The report said that American training

terinsurgency techniques had played a significant role in the torture, kidnapping and execution of thousands of civilians. American officials previously en-

dorsed the findings of the commission, but no president had directly confronted the U.S. role in the war's atrocities. Mr. Clinton on Wednesday praised Guatemala as a society that was coming to terms with its painful past and was

See CLINTON, Page 6

moving forward.

AGENDA

Senate Panel Urges More Embassy Safety

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - A Senate panel called on Thursday for U.S. embassies were insufficient, givmore spending on security at U.S. embassies were insufficient, given the clear and growing threat of bassies and questioned the Clinton administration's reaction after last year's

administration's new spending re- embassies safer.

Page 11. Page 24. Crossword. Pages 8-9. Opinion Pages 24-25. Šports ... Pages 4, 12:

Newsetend Prices

..10.00 FF Lebanon

_12.50 FF Morocco.....

Gabon......1.100 CFA Senegal......1.100 CFA

Ivory Coast .1.250 CFA Tunisla _____1.250 Din

Jordan _____1.250 JD U.A.E.____10.00 Dh

..... 5.50 Réunion 12.50 FF

.. 10.00 FF Saudi Arabia....... 10 SR

.3,000 Lire Spain _____250 Ptas

..700 Fils U.S. Mil. (Eur.)....\$1.20

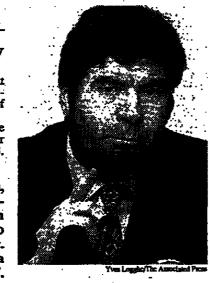
Cameroon...1.600 CFA Qatar.....

quests for security improvements at U.S. embassies were insufficient, giv-

The panel recommended that the embassy bombings in Africa.

Senators in both parties said the government spend \$1.4 billion a year for the next 10 years to make U.S.

FARM FEUD - Luc Guyan. representing farm unions, reacting negatively Thursday to an agreement by farm ministers to reform EU agricultural policy. The accord must be approved at a Berlin summit this month. Page 7.



Indonesian Religious Tension Boils Over

Christians and Muslims Search for Reasons to Explain Sudden Violence

By Atika Shubert Washington Post Service

AMBON CITY, Indonesia - For more than 30 years, President Suharto kept a lid on simmering tensions in this sprawling island nation. But the explosion of violence between Christians and Muslims in the remote province of the Moluccas since January has called into question Indonesia's ability to maintain harmony since Mr. Suharto's resignation in May.

chaos. Ten thousand refugees have clawed their way onto the docks, fighting for space aboard the only vessel out of the province - and the chance to leave comes only once every three

Usman, an 81-year-old refugee in Ambon's al Fattah Mosque, stared at the only items left after mobs burned down his home: an unmatched set of dingy plates and forks and spoons he hopes to sell for a ticket out of the mayhem.

It takes only a brief visit to the port in this provincial capital 2,250 kilometers

Not far away, 48-year-old David, a Christian trader, made the difficult de-

(1,400 miles) east of Jakarta to see the cision to send his elderly mother and 10year-old son to safety in a neighboring province and to keep his wife and 16-

year-old daughter with him as he faces the prospect of more violence. Neither Usman nor David ever thought this would happen, that their long-peaceful homes would explode into the sort of violence that killed more

than 200 people in one month. "We don't want to leave. This is our home, with our neighbors and friends,' David said. "I was born here, and I have never seen anything like this. We are all the same people, but I can't understand

why this is happening." Few can offer reasons for the sectarian violence, the worst in Indonesia in decades, Explanations range from the simplest of motives, revenge, to a more complex historical dynamic involving the pattern of Muslim migration into the once predominantly Christian island chain of Moluccas, also known as the Spice Islands.

In addition, there has been a breakdown in the authority of the military, which under Mr. Suharto maintained control by brutal methods but lately has been fending off accusations of human

rights abuses Islam and Christianity have lived side

See EL AL, Page 6

Japan Recession Over, Some Say, as Economy Stirs

By Sheryl WuDunn New York Times Service

NAKANOJOMACHI, Japan — Buildozers and tall cranes are popping up around the country, raising hopes that Japan may finally be close to lifting itself

out of recession. No other country has ever poured as much money more than \$830 billion in the last 12 months alone into economic revival as has Japan, and much of that money is now sloshing around the country and creating a noticeable impact. Here in this village in central

again busy, small companies are getting loans again and some people are feeling a tad more confident.

Japanese leaders have traditionally funneled money into brick-and-mortar projects to stimulate the econonry, so the signs of life these days are interpreted by most experts as just a temporary comeback, not a self-sustaining recovery. There have been many false starts the last eight years, but the economy has always sunk back, this time into the deepest recession since

the end of World War IL To the pessimists, however, Japan is like a vehicle

Japan, as in much of the country, construction crews are being towed along the road by all that deficit spending:

They doubt its engine will start without an overhaul. Whatever the reasons for the movement, whatever the concerns for the future, the passengers throughout Japan seem relieved that at least the vehicle may be going forward again.

Any progress in Japan would also be a major relief for the rest of the world, since Japan is the second-largest economy after the United States and by far the largest in Asia. Optimists believe that Japan has

See JAPAN, Page 14

Those Left on the Sidelines See an Improving Climate for Stability

By Joseph Fitchett

PARIS - For countries in Central Europe left out of NATO's first wave of expansion, the political embarrassment and fears of isolation that might have marred the three new members formal entry have eased. That is thanks to the alliance's success in involving these nations in defense cooperation short of membership and in improving the outlook for stability throughout the region, according to officials in Western capitals and in the nations waiting to be ad-

Articulating this realistic attitude in Slovakia. one of the most bitterly disappointed applicants. Foreign Minister Eduard Kukan said this week: "We are genuinely happy for our neighbors and their success." Their admission, he said, "is also beneficial for us because it will increase our the price of admission to NATO, has been own security" by extending the zone of Western political influence eastward.

Widely aired fears that NATO's selective also between non-NATO states, notably the end enlargements would foment tensions, by draw of a linguistic war between Bulgaria and Mace-showed countries on their good behavior in ing a new dividing line across Europe or creating a gray zone of vulnerable countries in Eastern Europe, have not materialized, Instead, NATO's prestige and ability to adapt to particular countries' situations seem to have reassured opinion both in nations in the alliance, such as Germany, and in non-member nations from the Baltic states, and Ukraine. Romania

ANALYSIS Slovenia on the Adriatic. The gravitational pull of NATO has already induced a number of post-Communist nations to accelerate internal reforms and to improve their relations with one another," the U.S. deputy secretary of state.

Strobe Talbott, said this week. The settlement of irredentist disputes, often carried out not only by Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic with non-NATO neighbors but

donia that NATO helped broker this year.

Another reassuring development for East Europeans has been the European Union's decision to take in new democracies beyond former East Germany. This European enlargement, Mr. Talbon said, resulted in part from the Clinton administration's initiative in getting NATO to enlarge, opening the way for political and Bulgaria, right down to and economic development by first exporting

security to the region. In practice, NATO's role in the conflicts in Bosnia and Kosovo has reassured other countries in the region that the Western alliance was broadening the area and the definition of its intervention for stability. This view was re-peatedly expressed by Mr. Kukan and other European officials this week at a conference on NATO sponsored by the Royal United Services

Institute in London.

Of course, diplomats there pointed out, such

intelligence can be shared.

handling NATO secrets.

NATO papers.

fense Ministry headquarters, for in-

stance, there are new gates and elec-

tronically controlled turnstiles, while

new locks, safes and procedures have

been installed in all three countries for

Even here, the past intercedes, but in

an ironic way. The Czechs were slow to

vet enough officers to take up NATO

The reason was an extremely tough

The Czechs were so scarred by the

In Hungary, similarly, a constitution-

al amendment limiting troop move-ments was passed in 1989, when Bud-

apest was worried more about its

membership in the dying Warsaw Pact

Two-thirds of those elected to Par-

Even for Friday's celebration of

liament must vote to allow Hungarian

NATO accession, Parliament had to

vote to allow British Grenadiers to bring their ceremonial swords into the

These laws make it more compli-

cated, but hardly impossible, to par-

ticipate in NATO exercises, Mr.

constitution recently fell apart over in-

ternal political wrangling.

Wachsler said. An effort to amend the

troops to operate outside Hungary.

than about joining NATO.

raised very high new standards.

security law, requiring psychological

order to improve their chances of being tapped for future membership. NATO's open-door policy, alliance officials say, means that no former Yugoslavia would provide a land bridge country in Europe, regardless of history or geography, is excluded as a potential member.

That phrasing is ambiguous about Russia and its strategic neighbor. Ukraine, which both have separate cooperative pacts with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Russian leaders have become resigned to the first enlargement round "as a fait accompli." according to Sergel Rogov, the director of a Moscow think tank, but remain adamantly opposed to a second intake.

Moscow seems to be hoping that the three new members will prove harder to digest than NATO leaders expected. Now securely in the

obliged to live up to their commitments and maintairi defense spending in the face of mounting domestic economic pressures.

The outlook for other countries seeking mem-bership varies widely, officials said, almost unanimously citing Slovenia as a perfect can-didate. Internally in good shape, this bit of attaching Hungary to the bulk of NATO.

But Slovenia's invitation will not be forthcoming until it adds weight to a package including another candidacy, perhaps one of the Baltic states: Lithuania, Latvia or Estonia. Membership for them meets bitter opposition in Moscow, partly for strategic reasons, partly because they were part of the former Soviet

Slovenia could also be coupled in NATO's thinking with Slovakia or Romania, countries that were once considered leading candidates until their political systems soured. Both countries that were once considered leading candidates until their political systems soured. alliance, these governments may feel less tries now seem to be back on track and want early membership to help lock in their internal progress. Similar cases for admission are being pressed by Bulgaria and Macedonia.

Historic Day For Europe: A Major Shift In Geopolitics

Continued from Page 1

time in our history, and an anchoring in the democratic world, in the world of protection of democratic values."

Mr. Havel, who has prodded the more sullen Czechs into the alliance. says their lack of open enthusiasm reflects "a certain amount of parochialism, isolationism and faint-heartedness, all of which have an established tradition in modern Czech history."

In fact, as the reality of membership looms - together with the mess in Kosovo and a regional economic slowdown - popular enthusiasm for NATO and required military spending has dropped in all three countries, with recent polls registering some 60 percent of Poles and Hungarians in favor of membership now, and some 55 percent of Czechs.

But all three governments remain en-thusiastic about NATO and committed to increased defense spending even in competence in 300 years of occupation these harder times, when Polish ecoof GDP this year and Czech growth has

distinction alongside the British in Bosnia and the Americans in the Gulf.

turned negative. For Tadeusz Chabiera, with two sons and three daughters, there is also a simpler meaning for a Poland which has, at different moments over the last 300 years, disappeared from the map, "I want my children to grow up safely."

Burying the Ghosts

For the militaries of all three nations. NATO membership is also a chance to pacify, if not bury, some awkward ghosts. While some officers feel they are simply exchanging the language of one empire for another, most recognize that NATO is a voluntary alliance that works by consensus.

Colonel Petr Vicnovsky, who commands a Czech air defense brigade, said that membership in the Warsaw Pact meant a depressing servility to Moscow's orders. A military career, he said, commanded little social respect. "We had no opportunity to make decisions as a sovereign state." he said. "Now we can decide for ourselves, as a full partner in NATO committees.

In 1956, when the Soviet bloc invaded Hungary, few soldiers fought back. The Czechoslovak Army did not resist the Soviet invasion of 1968 any more than the Nazi occupation of 1939. The same Polish Army that nobly and vainly rode its horses into Nazi tank fire sent 50,000 fraternal forces to help crush the Czechs in 1968, and imposed martial law against the Solidarity free trade union - and much of Polish society - in 1981.

Still, the military, like the Roman over Czech airspace. Catholic Church, is at the center of Polish national identity, and the Hungarians, too, have an important military tradition that dates long before the Aus- American ambassadors to all three



Polish soldiers showing a rocket launcher to General Henry Shelton, the chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, center, in Krakow on Thursday. Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary will join NATO on Friday.

tro-Hungarian empire. While there is countries talk enthusiastically about the include sometimes humdrum compatsome truth to "The Good Soldier Sve-jk" notion of the Czech soldier — survival despite apparent bungling and in-Czech soldiers have served with

Such successes - like Poland's peacekeeping efforts around the world and Hungary's engineering battalion, which has rebuilt 84 bridges in four years in Bosnia --- will go a long way to raise the stature of the military within society, says Tamas Wachsler, the young state secretary of the Hungarian

Defense Ministry.

The key to rebuilding the overall character and prestige of the military is to give it teeth," he said. "NATO helps. not just by providing world standards

to officers." By insisting on civilian control over the military, NATO makes it easier to reform these armies and subordinate them to popular will, a senior Polish official said.

'Poland has never before had a modern democracy, and the military, like the church, has never been a democratic institution in Poland," he said. "The real test for NATO - and for Poland is how to deal with undemocratic institutions and make them compatible with democracy.

That process has started -- of Poland's 130 generals, fewer than 10 had the rank before 1989 — "but it will also

Sleek NATO Facility

Deep in a bunker under the Czech town of Stara Boleslav, there is a sophisticated Warsaw Pact air defense command headquarters that has now been transformed, with American aid, into a NATO facility that keeps watch

There are similar Air Sovereignty Operations Centers, as they are now called, in Poland and Hungary, and the

"Dr. Strangelove" quality of the bunkers, with their huge overhead screens and sophisticated computers. The facilities will also help make commercial air travel safer for civilians.

All three centers opened only last month, but they were the most crucial requirement for joining

The new members could hardly by defended without an integrated air defense system, coupled with 24-hour patrols and a rapid reaction capability

That said," noted a senior NATOcountry military attache. 'all the air crews need better tactics, training and

NATO officials in all three countries expressed concern that while defense spending is increasing, the amount of money going to operations and training. especially for combat pilots, is insufficient or dropping. Except for frontline pilots, training hours are well below NATO standards.

Hungary, for instance, gives 27 pilots NATO's standard of 100 hours of training, while other pilots currently get only one hour: last November, some 40 Polish pilots held a public protest and quit over insufficient training.

While all three countries have met NATO's minimum military requirements, the training issue is a good example of the significant work that remains to be done to make NATO membership less hollow.

But this was NATO's choice, argues a senior Hungarian official.

'NATO rightly decided to invite key countries to join, provide them minimum requirements to reach in a short term, and work with them to bring them up to speed," the official said.

The chances of a significant NATO military operation are very small, so it's OK to have some countries below NATO standards now, under the assumption they will reach them in five Other minimum requirements the

three countries worked hard to meet

Soon, Poles and Germans Will March as Allies

Foes Over the Centuries Practice NATO Roles

By Peter Green nonal Herold Tribun

SZCZECIN, Poland - The last time this ancient Baltic port saw the German Army was when Hitler's Wehrmacht was fleeing westward ahead of advancing Soviet troops in the waning days of

But on Friday, Poland, along with Hungary and the Czech Republic, will join Germany in NATO, and by the end real army that is not used against of June, 50 German officers will be corps headquartered here.

The creation of the Multinational Corps Northeast finally marks an opportunity for Poland and Germany to bury the hatchet after 1,000 years of an often-acrimonious relationship, which culminated in Germany's invasion of Poland in 1939

The corps will comprise 18,000 German troops from the 14th Mechanized ibility issues like communications equipment, adapter nozzles for fuel Division and the entire Danish land lines and security procedures, so NATO forces (an 18,000-man division) joining 10,000 Polish troops from the 12th Outside Poland's sprawling old De-Mechanized Division.

"This is a totally new approach from the Polish side because we have lived with our close neighbor Germany for 1,000 years, but always back to back, never face to face, 'said Major General Edward Pietrzyk, the Polish officer who is establishing the corps headquarters of about 150 officers and men in Szczecin and will be its deputy commander when operations formally begin on June 26.

positions in Brussels or to handle No German combat troops will be stationed in Poland, but once the corps first large-scale operations begin next year, during Exercise Crystal Eagle, exams and other queries that go beyond Polish soldiers will have an opportunity NATO standards, passed only last to train alongside Germans, doing much still a focus of national pride, its to break down the residual mistrust the prestige was dealt severe blows by its Poles feel toward their bigger and

misuse of security and the extent of wealthier neighbor. collaboration with the secret police un-"It is a question of whether we der the Communist regime that they should look to the past or look to the future," said Colonel Mariusz Jedrze-"In the long run, that will benefit us," said Petr Necas, chairman of Parjko, a senior aide to Poland's land forces commander. The multinational corps, liament's Defense and Security Comhe said, will mark "a historic act of mittee, reflecting lingering concerns reconciliation. Relations between solwithin NATO about intelligence-shardiers will help one society to understand the other.

> Leningrad and Moscow as an artillery College in Virginia, said the new corps much in private business. would be a key training ground for Polish officers who will learn NATO standards on the job in Szczecin and Pietrzyk. then be posted back throughout the Pol-

ish Army to pass on their skills.

This place is the gateway for the Polish armed forces to become part of NATO," he said. "We will do it by brightest young men and women as practice, every day. With a huge num-. officers. ber of Polish officers and their families rotating here, we will change the men-

tality."
With 200,000 men, Poland's military will be NATO's fourth-largest, and such a change is vital because many corps well.

Poles see the army as a preserve of Soviet-style thinking, not a national

Polish soldiers get their backs up when asked about the army's falling prestige. But civilians who watch the army say that it is a serious problem and that the Szczecin Corps and other NATO efforts are important factors in

"NATO will help the Poles to have a real army that is not used against the nation and that, like 1968, is not part of based in Szczecin, part of a new Gera hegemonistic zone," said Tadeusz man-Danish-Polish army corps Chabiera, of the Euro Atlantic Association, a private group promoting Poland's NATO entry.

"We want a real army that could have the social prestige it had before the

Along with the Roman Catholic Church, the Polish Army has been one f the country's two pillars of national identity. Even in the 19th century, when Poland was partitioned among Germany, Austria-Hungary and Russia. dreams of a Polish army kept the ideal of nationhood alive.

Under Marshal Jozef Pilsudsky. the Polish Army stopped Russian Bolshev-

Germans and Poles used to live back to back, but now they look forward to cooperative relations.

iks at the gates of Warsaw in 1921, saving the fledgling Polish Republic. But the army was overrun by Hitler in

1939. And under communism, while participation in the 1968 Soviet-led invasion of Czechoslovakia, and by the 1981 imposition of martial law, when the army forced striking Solidarity labor unionists to surrender.

Many Poles saw it as little more than an instrument of Soviet domination.

Today, only about one in six potential conscripts actually enters the military. The rest find deferments. Even officers are reportedly leaving in droves. A General Pietrzyk, who trained in working knowledge of English and some computer skills are vital for a officer in the 1970s and 1980s and is a prospective military career, but those 1998 graduate of the U.S. National War same skills can earn a Pole five times as

"Yes, I will receive a salary like a sergeant from Germany," said General

But he added that only as a part of NATO could the Polish Army regain its prestige and eventually raise pay to the

But the corps does have one opponent. In March 1997, NATO announced it would not deploy troops on the territory of the new members, and Russia has not taken the idea of the joint

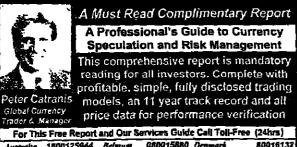
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TRAVEL UPDATE

Security Review for U.S. Airports

WASHINGTON (AP) - Nearly 80 of the largest airports in the United States face an extensive security review as the Federal Aviation Administration cracks down on reported security lapses.

The aviation agency launched the six-week review after auditors in a survey of five airports found inadequate safeguards for keeping unauthorized personnel out of secured areas. Eventually, smaller commercial airports will be examined.

The agency will also determine whether it needs to do "red-— such as sending undercover agents to try to penetrate security - to ensure that problem areas have been addressed after the review, a spokesman for the agency said.

Airline to Show Sex Tourism Video PARIS (Reuters) - Passengers flying from Europe to Asia

on Air France flights will soon be presented with a short video aimed at fighting sex tourism for pedophiles, a spokeswoman for the carrier said Thursday.

to Asia, "aims to make people aware of the problem of the

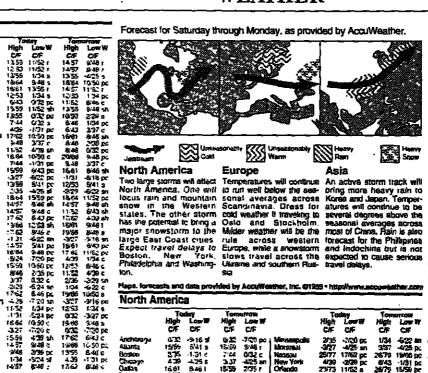
The video, which will be shown from Monday on all flights

sexual exploitation of children," she said. Charities and children's rights groups say that more than 50,000 youngsters under the age of 16 work as prostitutes in Asia and that more could be forced into the sex trade as a result of the region's economic downturn. Air France will show the

videos over the next 12 months.

Greece on Monday began implementing a European Union flight ban on the Yugoslav national carner. Yugoslav Airlines, six months after most other EU countries began the embargo to protest the crisis in Kosovo. Greece had said bilateral agreements forced it to provide Yugoslavia with a six-month notice before halting JAT flights.

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THE AMERICAS

Watching Dole: Where Does She Stand? Can She Stand It?

By Melinda Henneberger New York Times Service

WASHINGTON - During her husband's 1996 presidential campaign, Elizabeth Hanford Dole showed up, right on time, to tape a commercial for him. She read the spot through once, off the prompter. Then she thanked

everybody and got up to leave.

Even professional actors can go through a dozen takes at such a taping, just getting

But when Mrs. Dole was called back and asked to try once more, she seemed at first not to understand the request, then took umbrage at the implication that her presentation had been other than perfect the first time. Before a third try, according to a sympathetic wimess, she cleared the room and proclaimed herself thoroughly humiliated.

A long career in Washington has produced many such anecdotes about Mrs. Dole: Ever professional and widely admired for what one friend calls her "superhuman discipline," she prepares so thoroughly for public appearances that she even requires aides to count the num-

ber of steps she must take to the podium.

Though roughly as fragile as former Prime
Minister Margaret Thatcher of Britain, Mrs. Dole is also famously thin-skinned, and has been known to burst into tears over unflat-

tering press.
Even friends who think Americans might appreciate a president with an extra measure of self-control after the Clinton years wonder why she would subject herself to the ordeal of

running for the office. In a phone interview, Mrs. Dole said, "I've long ago learned to deal with the slings and arrows of politics." If she does run, she said, "It will be to make a positive contribution to people's lives, to bring civility back to pol-

Wednesday, when Mrs. Dole announced her intention to consider formally a pres-idential run, in what would be her first bid for public office, she appeared ready to become the country's first serious female presidential candidate and a serious contender, period.



Mrs. Dole at the Iowa rally where she announced she would study a presidential bid. "She's a tough lady; she's as hard as her hairdo," a Republican consultant said.

member all the talk about how the wrong Dole was running?) — she has stirred enormous interest among Republicans, and has consis-tently done well in early polls, usually placing

just behind Governor George Bush of Texas. Now Mrs. Dole will have to answer two major questions: What does she stand for?
And can she stand the messy, uncontrolled. often out-of-control political process that will decide who becomes the next president?

After decades in the public eye, she is hardly an unknown quantity. But some in her party continue to wonder about her politics nd whether she is suited to the political life.

Is she a centrist in the style of, say, her husband? Or do her beliefs as a committed Christian put her politics more in line with the religious right?

Now 62, she became a Republican just before she became Mrs. Dole, at 39. And As a two-time cabinet secretary, a former although she has repeatedly thrown herself head of the American Red Cross and an iminto her husband's campaigns, her politics has Republicans are, not seen as a threat to others'

mensely popular campaigner for her husband, remained ambiguous, if only because she has former Senator Bob Dole of Kansas — (Renewer run for office.

She said she defines herself politically as a mainstream conservative and laughs at the suggestion that she is too much of a per-

fectionist to handle a national campaign.
"That has been so overplayed," she said.
"I said in a speech in 1987 that I considered myself a perfectionist, but I've really tempered that extensively and there's no way I could have taken on the issues I have if I had not tempered that."

And thin-skinned? Another laugh. "I have to disagree with that," she said.

Friends say she is running out of a real sense of calling, an almost missionary zeal.

According to Mari Maseng Will, an old friend and longtime adviser, the theory of Mrs. Dole's campaign is this: "Elizabeth has an opportunity to put together a new version of the Reagan coalition," appealing to con-servative Democrats and independents.

views and not intolerant." Ms. Will said. adding, "A lot of women would be drawn to her in a way they haven't been drawn to the Republicans in a long time — and young professionals, and eventually, the social conservatives."

The challenge will be filling in the blanks in

that general portrait of her.
"She's a tough lady: she's as hard as her hairdo," said Alex Castellanos, a Republican consultant who has worked for Mr. Dole. "And she'll be one of the serious con-

"But until America learns where she would lead, she won't pass the threshold test." Mr. Castellanos said. "There's always a place at the table for a female candidate." he said. "but for it to become more than that, she has to have a message beyond 'I am woman, hear

Although Mrs. Dole is an active Christian who schedules time for daily prayer and who, friends say, is largely motivated by the dic-tates of her faith, she has never been a particular favorite among her party's base.

Her husband was never eager to join the abortion debate and seemed to put his foot in his mouth whenever he did broach the issue. Mrs. Dole's stated position, that she is against abortion except for certain cases but respects other viewpoints, seems similarly wishywashy to some conservatives.

She says her position is wholly unambiguous: "It's pretty clear. I'm pro-life, with exceptions for the rape, incest and the life of the mother.

But even her pollster, Linda DiVall, suggests that her position is a little more complex, saying. "I don't know that she wants to overturn the law of the land," referring to the Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision leg-

alizing abortion.

And one religious conservative leader, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, recalled that every time Mrs. Dole has spoken to his group, she has excised references to abortion. Privately, some Republican consultants say they worry more about Mrs. Dole's flexibility than her politics, whatever they may be, and wonder whether she is gaited for the free-forall of a national campaign.

POLITICAL NOTES

House for School Flexibility On Spending Federal Money

WASHINGTON — A bill designed to give schools more flexibility in spending federal money was approved Thursday by the House on a vote of 330 to 90. Unlike a companion bill destined for Senate passage, the House measure does not include any of President Bill Clinton's education proposals, including federal subsidies for hir-

ing thousands of new teachers. On Wednesday, the Senate broke through six days of procedural jousting and agreed to vote later Thursday on both the bill and amendments demanded by Democrats.

Republicans and Democrats have battled over whether the "ed-flex" bill, which would loosen strings on certain federal dollars, should include plans to spend \$1.2 billion to hire 100,000 new teachers nationwide to reduce class sizes. Late Wednesday, Senate leaders had cut a deal to put the bill up for a vote, along with a handful of amendments that include the new-teacher plan.

The House passed the bill without compromises. (AP)

Starr Presents Data Revealing Fraudulent Loan Aided Clinton

LITTLE ROCK. Arkansas - The office of the independent counsel Kenneth Starr alleged Thursday that a fraudulent \$300,000 federal loan taken out by Susan McDougal in the mid-1980s was used to help pay off an earlier loan taken out in President Clinton's name for the Whitewater land venture.

In testimony at Mrs. McDougal's obstruction of justice and contempt trial, an FBI agent. Mike Patkus, made the first link between the fraudulent federal loan and a possible benefit to Mr. Clinton, who at the time of the 1986 transactions was Arkansas governor.

Mr. Clinton has testified he knew nothing about the fraudulent Small Business Administration-backed loan that Mrs. McDougal received and also never had any financial transactions or loans from the savings and loan owned by Mrs. McDougal and her late ex-husband, James.

But Mr. Patkus testified that he discovered a \$27,600 loan from Madison S&L to Mr. Clinton taken out in 1982 while pouring through microfilm records of the failed thrift. And he then traced for the jury a series of complex transactions that showed how the 1982 Clinton loan came to be reimbursed through the \$300,000 loan.

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Colombia Rebels Killed Americans

Leftist Group's Confession May Unblock Fragile Peace Process

SAN VICENTE DEL CAGUAN, Colombia — In a stunning confession, Colombia's were found last week.

A senior leader of the leftist Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, known as FARC, said Wednesday that the Americans were kidnapped and executed by a low-ranking field commander acting without the approval of his superiors.

Raul Reyes, a member of the group's seven-man ruling junta, said: "We condemn the abominable assassination of the three Amer-

The rebel who ordered the shootings may be put before a firing squad, Mr. Reyes ad-

was seen as a lifeline for efforts to negotiate an execute the hostages. end to Colombia's 34-year conflict, which

Away From Politics

• The New York Civil Liberties Union has sued the city over its new policy to seize the cars of people accused of drunken driving. The lawsuit was filed on behalf of 72 people who lost their cars under the policy.

•O.J. Simpson's daughter, Amelle Simpson, 30, has paid more than \$10,000 in restitution for damaging a Beverly Hills bus bench and apartment building in a crash while driving drunk, prosecutors said. Ms. Simpson had pleaded no contest last year to misde-meanor drunken driving charges. (Reuters)

astated farming and ranching communities, Texas officials are increasingly alarmed about what appears to be a potentially more serious justice is done either in drought looming this year. The unusually United States," he said. warm winter and dearth of rainfall have stunted hay and natural grasses.

 Newspaper executives denied rumors that the Denver Post would be sold to its rival, the Rocky Mountain News, as the two continued one of the last American newspaper circu-(Reuters) lation battles.

suffered a serious blow when allegations of

rebel participation in the killings emerged.

The bodies of Ingrid Washinawatok, 41, largest rebel group has admitted its men abducted and killed three American activists were found in a field just across the border in whose blindfolded and bullet-riddled bodies venezuela one week after they had been abducted and bullet-riddled bodies. ducted in Colombia by armed men. The bodies were returned to the United States on Wednesday.

The three Americans were abducted after spending a week in Colombia on a mission to help set up a school system for a local Indian group, the 8,000-member U'wa nation.

Mr. Reyes said a guerrilla commander and three rebels under his command captured and executed the Americans after discovering them on the U'wa reservation "without guerrilla authorization.

He gave no explanation, though, why the The fact that the group took responsibility Mr. Reyes identified as "Gildardo" - would

> Nor did he explain why superiors in the tightly hierarchical rebel army were poweress to stop him.

> The armed forces commander, General Fernando Tapias, called the group's confession "very positive for the peace process" but said the army had information suggesting that a different unit of the group had carried out the

> killings. Former colleagues of the slain activists were also raising questions.

> Melina Selverston, a Washington-based Indian rights activist who worked closely with Freitas on a campaign to keep foreign oil companies off of U'wa lands, said: "We don't accept their apology, and we need to know what happened."

had pleaded no contest last year to misdemeanor drunken driving charges. (Reuters)

• Still reeling from a 1998 drought that dev
Peter Romero said the United States viewed the rebel admission cautiously.

We will be following up to be sure that justice is done either in Colombia or in the Washington had initially blamed the group

severely damaged the winter wheat crop and for the killings, and requested that the guilty parties be extradited to stand trial in the United States.

Mr. Reyes said the guilty party would face rebel justice in Colombia.
"We will not turn over our fighters to any

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THE WORLD'S DAILY NEWSPAPER

By Elisabeth Rosenthal New York Times Service

BEIJING - Song Pengfei passes his days in a spare 13 square-meter-room moving from a bed with a red-checked blanket, to a chair, to a donated computer. His parents, their lives crammed into the adjacent sitting room, spend their days worrying.

Shy to begin with, the soft-spoken 17year-old says his energy and spirits are just "so-so." He fainted recently on a street nearby and lay on the ground until an elderly stranger rescued him.

"I almost never go out." he said longingly. "I read. I listen to music. I go on the Internet to learn about AIDS."

Song Pengfei is one of a small but growing number of Chinese infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS in a country that is largely unprepared emotionally, financially and medically to deal with them.

Since he became infected in February 1998 after a blood transfusion at a hospital near his poor rural hometown, he has been kicked out of a school that was afraid to teach him and from hospitals that refused to treat him. A thin, angular young man who looks like he stepped out of a Modigliani painting, he has endured biting discrimination with beatific stoicism.

The Song family knows that half a world away, American doctors now routinely prescribe an expensive regimen of pills that can help their son. In fact, Pengfei is one of a handful of Chinese who have tried the "AIDS cocktail." with dramatic results. And now, the Songs are desperately trying to force the hospital that gave him tainted blood or the government to pay for the pills -a gargantuan task in a country where the public health system is in tatters, few have health insurance, and there are few

legal remedies for medical malpractice. 'I really didn't want to expose this -and I'm attached to the country, the party, the people, "said Song Xishan, Pengfei's father, an unemployed factory worker. But we are at a critical juncture - the medicine we have is about to run out -and I have to think about my child."

China's HIV problem is still rela-



Remains of burned houses littering the Ambon waterfront after another day of deadly sectarian clashes.

Indonesia Backs 'Direct Vote' for East Timor

UNITED NATIONS, New York - The Indonesian foreign minister said here Thursday his country backed a "direct vote" by the people of East Timor on a draft autonomy package for the former Portuguese territory. It was the clearest public signal so far that Jakarta, which

continues to reject a referendum on the future of East Timor, was shifting its position and would agree to a democratic Foreign Minister Ali Alatas spoke with reporters as he

arrived at the UN to wrap up talks with his Portuguese counterpart, Jaime Gama, and the UN special representative, Jamsheed Marker. The talks are focusing on how East Timor would be consulted on the autonomy package. with Xanana Gusmao, the rebel chief.

Mr. Alatas again rejected as "not very logical" a UN proposal backed by Portugal for election of a consultative assembly that would decide whether to accept autonomy, which is certain to be rejected, or prepare for independence. He called for "a direct vote of the people, not through an

Meanwhile, the heads of warring factions in East Timor said they had agreed to work toward peace after a landmark meeting on hostilities in the territory.

'We both agreed to put down our guns, stop terrorizing one another and making false statements, because for the past 23 years we have been enemies," the pro-Indonesian militia leader Joao Tavares said after a one-hour meeting

300,000 people have the virus in the while, HIV specialists are still rare, and fusion, the surgeon introduced Mr. Song entire population of 1.3 billion, according discrimination and public ignorance to a so-called blood boss, a middleman ing to the Ministry of Health, and most are not sick. About 9 percent, including It all began with a minor accident in their rural hometown in Shanxi Pengfei, contracted the disease from unscreened blood transfusions. A great ma-Province, when Pengfei threw himself jority are intravenous drug users, acdown on a couch to watch television and cording to Dr. Cao Yunzhen, an Amergashed his thigh on a pair of scissors his

father had left there.

The wound swelled and Pengfei ter of AIDS Prevention and Control. But despite recent prevention efforts, needed minor surgery to clean out the tively small - only an estimated the numbers are rising quickly. Mean- gash. Since Pengfei would need a trans-

who would find a villager to donate.

On the morning of Feb. 18, 1998, Mr. Song gave the blood boss \$40 and Pengfei received 300 cubic centimeters of blood drawn from a husky 19-year-old sumamed Qi.

A few days after the surgery, when orderlies did not take Pengfei to an important test and doctors failed to report lab results, the family suspected a prob-

lem. Just two weeks later, the doctors abruptly announced that Pengfei would have to be moved to an infectious disease hospital because his blood tests had revealed hepatitis.

Mr. Song protested: Why should his son leave the hospital that could best treat his leg when hepatitis is so com-monplace in China? Only then did the doctors pull him aside. Within two weeks of his transfusion - a short time but not unusually so — Pengfei had tested positive for HIV.

From that moment on, the family's life has been defined by a mad scramble for money and by massive rejection by officials, friends, colleagues, even doctors and nurses. It started the next day, when Pengfei was sent to the outpatient department of the infectious disease hospital for a specialized blood test. When he returned, the nurses refused to give him a bed in the ward. Penniless, the Songs slept in the corridor.

A few days later, Pengfei was admitted to Beijing's Ditan Hospital, home to one of China's few specialized HIV programs, where the Songs quickly exhausted their savings on tests and treatments. Although Pengfei's leg was healing nicely, his energy and appetite were succumbing to the virus. Dr. Xu Keyi, an infectious disease specialist who had trained in the United States, suggested they try the American medicines — if the family could raise \$16,000 a year.

It was an unthinkable sum for the couple, more than most Chinese earn in a lifetime. By April, the family, out of money, returned to Linfen, where Mr. Song hoped that he could press officials to clarify how his son had gotten HIV and then get the local health bureau to help pay for Pengfei's medicines.

The school where Pengfei had studied computers and English refused to let him re-enroll. Hospital nurses would not give him infusions.

The villagers sent petitions to the local government demanding that the family be expelled, and the Songs knew it was me to move on.

But by that time Mr. Song had made some progress: The local public security bureau disclosed that the blood donor, now in prison for theft, had tested positive for HIV. With prodding from a lawyer, the local hospital agreed to give the family \$12,500 for drugs and \$2,500

to start a new life in Beijing.

Last May, Pengfei started taking the powerful anti-HIV medications and within a month his viral load, a measarement of virus levels in his bloodstream, had dropped from 400,000 to fair and impartial administration of

"It was wonderful," Mr. Song said. justice and will uphold the rule of law in "He was eating, he had energy, he would walk around."

But it is a hand-to-mouth existence for the Songs, who are officially rural residents and therefore cannot readily work in Beijing, And doctors at Ditan Hospital have advised the family that they will need to raise more than \$20,000 within the coming months to continue Pengfei's treatment after May 5.

BRIEFLY

U.S. Gets Warning About North Korea

WASHINGTON - North Korea is moving to acquire more deadly weapons and heading toward a "position of confrontation" with the United States, the U.S. special coordinator for North Korea said Thursday.

William Perry, the former de-fense secretary, who was tapped last year to conduct a four-month review of U.S. policy toward North Korea, also urged Washington to back South Korea's policy of engagement with its rightly closed neighbor.

"North Korea is moving toward nuclear weapons as well as the ballistic missiles that can carry these weapons," Mr. Perry told a briefing at the Brookings Institution. And that is putting it into a position of confrontation with the United

But he said that the U.S. government should support the South Korean policy of engagement with the North. "It represents a new and very promising initiative," he said.

Legislators Heckle Pakistani President

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan --- President Rafiq Tarar trumpeted Pakistan's new nuclear status in an annual address Thursday and urged a quick move to an Islamic system in Pakistan and greater world at-tention to the Taleban movement in Afghanistan.

Opposition lawmakers led by Benazir Bhuno, a former prime minister, heckled the largely ceremonial president and nearly drowned out his speech in the cavernous National Assembly hall. Wearing black arm bands, the becklers pounded tables, clapped their hands and shouted, "Shame, hands and shouted,

Japan Decapitator Is Fined \$836,000

TOKYO — A 16-year-old convicted of beheading a boy and his family were ordered by a court Thursday to pay about \$836,000 in damages to the victim's parents.

The teenager was convicted in October 1997 of beheading Jun Hase, 11, and leaving his head at a school gate with a sinister note stuffed in its mouth.

He was also convicted of murdering another girl. He is receiving psychiatric treatment at a juvenile facility. (AP)

Justice Secretary Escapes Censure in Hong Kong have confidence in Miss Leung. "The government is committed to the

HONG KONG — Hong Kong's leg-islature Thursday rejected a no-confidence motion against the territory's top justice official over her handling of issues linked to China.

The motion against Justice Secretary Elsie Leung was the 60-seat council's first attempt to censure a top official since the former British colony returned

the pro-China publishing tycoon, in a duced the censure motion. "What she tive, said his administration continued to for mainland Chinese.

circulation fraud involving her Hong has done has destroyed that faith. Kong Standard newspaper. Miss Leung Defending herself during the cited insufficient evidence and public interest as well as the potential for job losses at Sing Tao Holdings Ltd., Ms. Aw's company.
Opposition lawmakers said Miss

ican-trained expert at the National Cen-

Leung's handling of the case had destroyed faith in her commitment to the rule of law.

Defending herself during the legis-

lature's debate, which followed an allnight session covering other bills, Miss Leung said she had done nothing wrong in deciding not to prosecute Ms. Aw.

There is no basis for this council to

lose confidence in me." she said. "I remain committed, as always, to the rule of law, equality before the law and in-

Hong Kong," he said. "Our legal system is intact and offers protection to everyone within the jurisdiction." The justice secretary also has come under intense criticism in recent months

for her refusal to seek the return of to Chinese sovereignty in 1997.

It arose from Miss Leung's decision last year not to prosecute Sally Aw Sian, last year not year not year not year not year not year not year year not ye In a statement after the vote, Tung seek a clarification from the territory's

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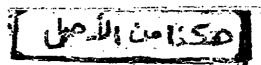
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حكذامن الأحل

INTERNATIONAL

the at North Korn Pope and Iranian Leader Hail Talks as an Opening

Khatami Speaks of Religions' Common Bonds

By Alessandra Stanley New York Times Service

PROPERTY OF THE PARTY OF THE PA

ROME - Seeking to improve relations beween Christianity and Islam, Pope John Paul II gave a private audi-ence to President Mohammed Khalami

of Iran on Thursday.

It was the Pope's first encounter with an Iranian head of state since the days of Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi.

As the Pope escorted the Shiite cleric out of his study in St. Peter's after a 25-minute talk, he called their meeting, very important and promising."

The Vatican visit was particularly important to Mr. Khatami, who is the first Iranian president to visit Western Europe since the Islamic Revolution in

A moderate, Mr. Khatami came seeking to improve Iran's economic and political ties with the West.

As he was leaving, Mr. Khatami asked the Pope to pray for him and also for the Pope's own health and success.
"The hope is for the final victory of

monotheism, ethics and morality together with peace and reconciliation," he told the Pope through a translator. "May tolerant of larger religious n God protect you."

He presented the Pope with gifts, in-

cluding videotapes of an Iranian television miniseries based on a story in the Koran about Christians who fled persecution by hiding in Persia for 300 years. "I think you will find this in-teresting," he told John Paul.

The visit was described as cordial and friendly. One member of the Iranian delegation, also a cleric, was apparently so moved by the audience that as he passed the Pope on his way out the door he stopped and asked John Paul II if he could do something. He then leaned down and kissed the Pope on the

The Pope has long stressed the com-mon bonds and beliefs between Christianity. Islam and other faiths. Since he arrived in Italy on Tuesday, so has Mr.

"All the divine faiths are not quint-essentially different," Mr. Khatami said in a speech to the European University Institute at Fiesole, near Florence.

The Pope last met with an Iranian leader in 1970, when he was greeted by the shah during an airport stopover in

The Vatican did not break diplomatic relations with Iran after the revolution. The Pope has talked with other Iranian officials in the Vatican, but Thursday was his highest-level meeting, and it was

വാഹം അന്താര് ആത്ത് ആരു

billed as a historic event by the Vat-

Mr. Khatami visited the United Nations last year. Iran currently chairs the 54-nation Islamic Conference, and that gave the papal audience additional

weight.
"The meeting with the Pope, therefore, assumes capital importance," the Vatican ambassador to Iran, Archbishop Romeo Panciroli, said on Vatican ra-

Mr. Khatami also met with the Vatican secretary of state, Angelo Sodano. According to a Vatican spokesman, they discussed the Middle East, Christian-Islamic dialogue and human rights in Iran, including the rights of Catholics

The Vatican is interested in improving conditions for Christians in Iran, who are a small minority of about 120,000. There are only 13,000 Roman Catholics there, and they are allowed to worship in their churches, but according to Fides, the missionary arm of the Holy See, Catholics are closely watched and denied some civil rights such as careers

The Iranian government is even less tolerant of larger religious minorities such as the Baha'is, followers of a faith that originated in 19th century Persia and which Iranian clerics consider apostasy.

Human rights organizations and Ira-nian dissident groups say they are fiercely persecuted by the more conservative wings of the iranian judiciary and security forces.

In Rome, where security surrounding President Khatami was tighter than for any other official visit since the then Soviet leader, Mikhail Gorbachev, came to Rome in 1989, about 50 Iranian demonstrators managed to squeeze into a far corner of St. Peter's square, but were cordoned off by barriers and a solid wall of Italian police officers.

They waved banners and shouted slogans against Mr. Khatami.

"He is a fascist and a terrorist!" one protester screamed. Despite all the security, Iranian protestors in Rome managed to hurl paint-filled eggs at Mr. hatami's passing motorcade.

By coincidence, Salman Rushdie was in Italy at the same time as Mr. Khatami, delivering an honorary degree speech at the University of Turin on Wednesday. Mr. Rushdie was sentenced to death by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini in 1989, who accused the British author of blasphemy in his novel, "The Satanic

on Thursday. The Pope may visit Iran this summer during an Asian trip. In September, Mr. Khatami's gov- he left Italy with "beautiful memories"

ernment lifted the sentence, known as a of his visit in the Vatican. "fatwa." But conservative mullahs reaffirmed the sentence on its 10th aniversary. Mr. Khatami did not publicly mention Mr. Rushdie during his

Before visiting the Pope, Mr. Khatami had a breakfast meeting at the Italian Foreign Ministry with two dozen top businessmen, including Guglielmo Moscato, chairman of Ente Nazionale Idrocarburi, the Italian energy giant, which, along with the French oil company Elf-Aquitaine, recently signed a \$1 billion deal to develop an odd-shore

oil field in Iran. An Italian official said that in the meeting Mr. Khatami sought to reassure the business executives, saying that Iranian society was opening up and that foreign investors could have confidence in the new climate.

Mr. Khatami, who flew back to Tehran on Thursday, told the Pope that

■ Rushdie Visit Angers Iranians Iranian newspapers lashed out at Italy on Thursday for playing host to Salman

Rushdie during the state visit by President Khatami, Reuters reported from

'The Italian Foreign Ministry must be held accountable for not informing its Iranian counterpart of its intention to grant a visa to the apostate Rushdie concurrent with the visit of President Khatami," said the English-language daily Iran News.

Honoring an apostate "is a cause for revision in Iran of what has so far been seen as Italian goodwill and friendly intentions," it said.

*One cannot help but reach the conclusion that at least some in the Italian government fully intended to insult our president, nation and religious beliefs. the daily added.

U.S. Restricts Low-Altitude Flights in Italy

By Matthew L. Wald New York Times Service

WASHINGTON - American flight crews working temporarily at the base in Aviano, Italy, are now prohibited from low-level training flights like the one that hit a ski-gondola cable 13 months ago, killing 20 people, the Pentagon has said in announcing plans for a safety study in the aftermath of the accident.

Tapes of each training flight are routinely reviewed by outsiders to make sure rules are followed. a Pentagon spokesman said Wednesday, but the mil-itary will not discuss other details, like whether the map used by the pilot last year, which did not show the cable, has been updated.

Defense Secretary William Cohen has appointed Admiral Joseph Prueher, the former commander in chief of the Pacific Command, to review measures taken since the Marine Corps Prowler jet hit the cable. The review is to take 30 days.

The pilot was acquitted by a military jury March 4, a day before Prime Min-ister Massimo D Alema of Italy visited the White House. President Bill Clinton promised the review after outrage over the verdict. The Italians are to appoint an

officer to work with Admiral Prueher.
A Pentagon spokesman, Captain Michael Doubleday of the navy, said that since the accident, Italian air traffic controllers have been briefing crews before each flight, and low-level training flights by American crews not permanently based in Aviano have been banned. The President Mohammed Khatami with Pope John Paul II at the Vatican Marine squadron involved in the cable accident was on a six-month tour.

New rules also require crews flying low-level missions "to initial that they have read all of the appropriate directives and appropriate briefing materials," Captain Doubleday said.

But Kenneth Bacon, another Pentagon

spokesman, asked Friday about the chart the crew was using, which did not show the lift cables, said, "I'm not aware that a change has been made yet in the map, but I really can't talk about that because that's the subject of a different litigation."

The court-martial disclosed other, deeper problems. For example, the Marines were relying on an altimeter that may have been disabled by the way they were flying the plane. Also, pilots fly low-level missions so seldom that they cannot maintain proficiency.

The Marine Corps is planning to announce Monday whether it will also court-martial the navigator. Captain Joseph Schweitzer, on the homicide and manslaughter charges on which the pilot, Captain Richard Ashby, was acquitted.

BRIEFLY

85 Injured in Gaza As Protesters Riot

GAZA - At least 85 people were injured Thursday in a second day of clashes in the Gaza Strip triggered by a death sentence imposed on a former Islamist activist, witnesses

and medical workers said. The Palestinian police sealed off the area, preventing journalists from covering the clashes in the southern Gazan town of Rafah.

Rioters pelted policemen with stones and they responded with

gunfue, teargas and clubbings. A medical worker said more than 70 policemen were treated after being hit by rocks and that about 15 protesters were wounded, two by live ammunition.

Two Palestinians were killed in similar clashes Wednesday after a Palestinian court sentenced to death a former activist of the militant Hamas group over the February killing of a security officer.

EU Rebuffs Israel **Over Meetings**

JERUSALEM - The European Union has rejected Israel's request to halt meetings in Arab East Jerusalem between European diplomats and Palestinian leaders, officials said Thursday.

Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel made the request last month to foreign missions, urging diplomats not to meet Palestinians at the Orient House, the Palestine Liberation Organization's Jerusalem headquarters.

Israel refers to both East and West Jerusalem as its undivided capital, in a policy most countries

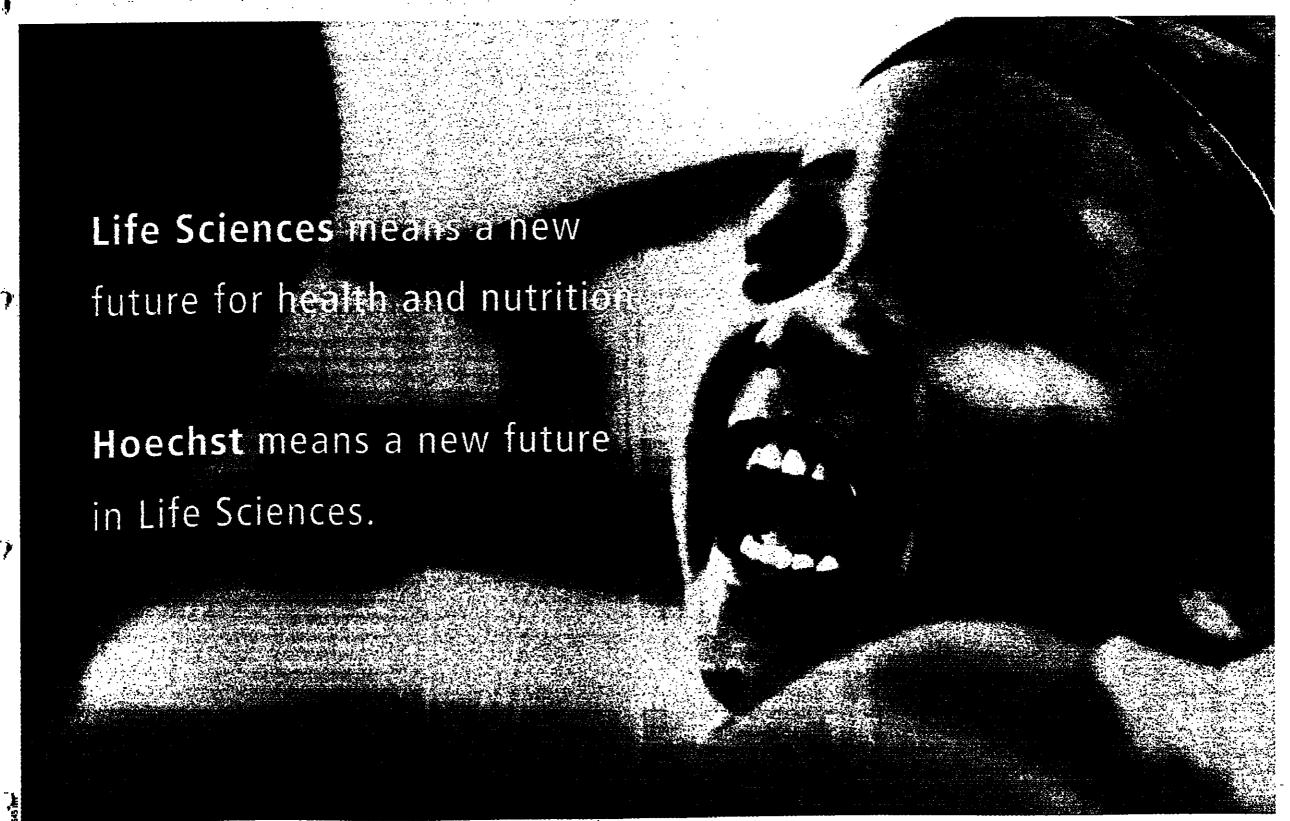
Canada Boycetts Talks with France

OTTAWA - Canada has boycotted a meeting in Paris to signal its anger over what it said was France's treatment of the separatist government of Quebec as a sovereign

The diplomatic disagreement erupted into the open Tuesday night when the Canadian government issued an unusual public rebuke of France for inviting Quebec to attend the meeting on development and

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Missile Shield Would Annoy Russians, Too, **China Asserts**

BEIJING - China said Thursday that it had held discussions with Russia about Washington's plan for what is called a "theater-missile defense system" to protect U.S. troops and allies in Asia.

Both Beijing and Moscow are opposed to such a program, China

stressed. Both China and Russia have expressed their respective stands on the issue of TMD." said the Foreign Ministry's spokesman. Zhu Bangzao. "On this issue, both sides have held talks."

He did not say where and when the talks were held or who was involved, but Prime Minister Zhu Rongji and a large delegation visited Moscow last month.

China has vehemently opposed sug-gestions that Taiwan, which Beijing regards as a rebel province, be included

under a missile-defense umbrella. Beijing has said this would mean a U.S. military presence on the island, something China would see as "the last straw" in difficult bilateral ties.
Russia is worried that the U.S. project

to build a limited missile shield would

month but stopped short of voicing opposition to the system.

U.S. officials said they had sought to not withdraw from ABM commitments, acted swiftly.

missile threat from North Korea. There have been calls in Washington for Taiwan to be under the missile-deballistic missile research begun in the

A recently published Pentagon report World Trade Organization. said that China was building a major Mr. Lugar sought to add the force of ballistic and cruise missiles near its coast and could present an overwhelm-

ing threat to Taiwan in five years.
Secretary of State Madeleine Albright said in Beijing last week that China should stop worrying "about a decision that has not been made to deploy defensive technologies that do not yet ex- and had accepted improper campaign

'China should focus its energies on the real source of the problem: the proliferation of missiles," she added.

Russian military officials say the United States has exaggerated a nuclear threat from "rogue states," unaligned with anyone.

Western experts say Russia -- dependent on the West for loans and with its own military underfunded — is aware U.S. missile plans.

In another development, China proposed that the United Nations negotiate a ban on weapons in outer space. The Chinese ambassador, Li Changhe, said in a speech to the UN Conference on Disarmament in Geneva that preventing an arms race in outer space had become a "pressing" issue.

The hypothetical U.S. theater missile said. defense system, backed by Japan, would be land-based but would probably use the unequal treatment accorded some given an amnesty from deportation. space sensors to provide early warning illegal immigrants from the nations of of enemy attack or accidental launches. Central America to the United States. But

QUITO, Ecuador - The police used

street clashes in Ecuador's major cities of an emergency plan to salvage this

tear gas to disperse protesters in isolated

Thursday, but a two-day national strike

against economic reforms appeared to

No injuries were reported. Urban

transit, however, was paralyzed by the strike in Quito, Guayaquil and Cuenca,

Clashes Wednesday left 19 people in-

jured and 97 arrested as protesters threw

incendiary devices and burned tires on

the streets of cities across Ecuador.

lose steam in its final day.



HIT THE BEACH - Sailors of the Japanese navy heading for shore leave at Port Kelang, Malaysia, on Thursday. They are part of a training exercise for recent graduates of the navy's Officer Candidate School.

CHINA: Congress Assails China Policies

mean revising the 1972 treaty on anti-ballistic missiles, which Moscow regards as a cornerstone of nuclear stability.

Russian officials made this clear to a 11 S. delegation that visited Moscow last

The actions that we took as a government we learned of this alleged espionage which took place in the '80s I believe were appropriate, I believe were reassure Russia that Washington would in the national interest, and I believe we

The United States says the umbrella is But Mr. Lugar, one of the most in-being considered because of a perceived fluential Senate Republicans on foreign policy, urged Mr. Clinton "to give the American people a damage assessment" and to review the administration's China fense system, which has its roots in anti-policy before the Chinese prime minister expected to push for entry into the

Mr. Lugar sought to add the espionage case to the growing list of Republican complaints about Mr. Clinton's China policy, which include charges that the administration had been too soft on Chinese human rights violations, had allowed American aerospace companies to transfer missile technology to Beijing contributions from Chinese donors.

"The Clinton administration already had dug a very deep hole for itself on Capitol Hill with respect to China," Mr. Lugar wrote in an Op-Ed article on Wednesday in The Washington Post. "That hole just got deeper and wider,"

And Mr. Lott endorsed a plan for the Armed Services Committee to hear testimony from the Republican and Democratic authors of a classified bipartisan House report that concluded China obtained some of the most sensitive American military technology.

Against this angry backdrop, Mrs. Al-

bright and two other cabinet members, Commerce Secretary William Daley and Energy Secretary Bill Richardson. visits Washington next month, when he mounted a coordinated defense Wednesday of the administration's handling of the case. Under sharp questioning from the

House Appropriations subcommittee that controls the State Department's funding, Mrs. Albright stressed the importance to the United States of engaging China, even in light of the spy

'It is very important for us to engage



Mrs. Albright defended U.S. policy in the face of technology leaks.

influence within its region, and that is also a permanent member of the Security Council," Mrs. Albright said.

"We have made some progress in terms of their cooperation on nuclear

with a country of 1.3 billion people that has a huge land mass, and that has an safeguarded facilities."

proliferation on rogue countries," she

Schroeder Given Chance To Resume Centrist Path

Lafontaine Damaged Confidence, Aides Say

By John Schmid International Herald Tribune

FRANKFURT — Until Thursday night, the German government had been an unwieldy two-headed creature with two discordant voices and two ideological camps in constant conflict with

But with the surprise resignation Thursday of Finance Minister Oskar Lafontaine, the heavyweight leftist in the Social Democratic Party, one of those voices has suddenly been silenced.

Mr. Lafontaine has long been the outspoken champion of his party's traditional left wing. Since election night in September,

Mr. Lafontaine has used his considerable authority in the party to rival the influence of Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder, who represents the party's pragmatist wing of modernizers and economic moderates.

Bonn sources said late Thursday that Mr. Schroeder would present himself to the party on Friday as the candidate to replace Mr. Lafontaine as party chief. At a late evening news conference, Mr. Schroeder declined to say who would replace Mr. Lafontaine in either post, but added that he would push for rapid decisions for both on Friday.

In an embarrassment to Mr. Schroeder, Mr. Lafontaine's desire to assert himself earned him the nicknames of "co-chancellor" and "secret chancellor" in the early days of the Schroeder government.

Mr. Lafontaine's economic policies have sparked a violent backlash by industry that Mr. Schroeder's aides this week said is unprecedented in postwar Germany. Threatening to move jobs and operations out of Germany, business leaders have been in revolt over Mr. Lafontaine's policies, which they say will destroy jobs, not create them, by shifting a bigger tax burden onto business. Since Mr. Schroeder's inauguration

speech in October, German unemployment has risen by a half-million. Mr. Schroeder now has the chance to

steer policy from his self-declared political "new center" without being undercut by Mr. Lafontaine.

Mr. Schroeder will be able to install an economic pragmatist ally at the head of the powerful Finance Ministry. In line for the job is Hans Eichel, the state premier of Hesse, according to several party sources. By presiding for years over Germany's powerhouse economic region, party sources said, Mr. Eichel has become far more sensitive to eco-

nomic issues than Mr. Lafontaine, who has taken much of the blame for the 10" percent slump in the value of euro since. it began life on Jan. 1.

Confirming the economic importance, of the change in Bonn, financial markets. sent the euro sharply higher.
Sources within Mr. Lafontaine's own.

party say he is so enamoured of his own intellect that he is blinded to the resistance his ideas encountered in the fourmonths of the struggling government Against all odds and powerful oppo-sition, Mr. Lafontaine has clung to his idea of controlling the world's \$1.5 trillion daily currency markets with simple target zones.

The news will have major implications for the rest of Europe. In his campaign, Mr. Schroeder promised an economic restructuring to adapt.

Europe's most pivotal economy for the era of globalization. With Mr. Lafon-taine blocking him, none of Mr., Schroeder's plans materialized. Mr. Lafontaine's brief written state-

ment omitted any reasons for the sudden departure. But recept events in Bonn' made clear that Mr. Lafontaine had become a lightning rod for criticism.

The Schroeder-Lafontaine conflict.

had escalated at an emotional closeddoor cabinet meeting Wednesday night. Mr. Schroeder singled out Mr. Lafontaine as he lashed out at his cabinet. German newspapers reported. He blamed his Finance Minister for heaping: new burdens on the power-generation. industry just when the government was: trying to extract an agreement to shut, down nuclear power plants.

Such policy confusion, and a succession of policy reversals and retreats. have led to a slump in economic confidence. Evidence that Mr. Lafontaine had driv-

en money out of Germany's economy appeared this week. A private bank in. Liechtenstein, the V-P Privat Bank, announced that the "Lafontaine effect" had sparked a flow of funds out of Germany and into its accounts, even allowing the bank to pay a special dividend.

The popularity of the governing Social Democrats reached a new low this week. Only 22 percent of respondents to 4 a Forsa institute poll believe the fourmonth-old government can solve the nation's problems, down from 30 percent in January.

The resignation appears to signal the end of one of Germany's most colorful. political careers. Mr. Lafontaine wanted to run for chancellor last year, but bowed. to Mr. Schroeder as the better cam-

CLINTON: Guatemala Gets Apology for U.S. Support of Rightists

part in campaigns of repression, Mr. Clinton said. "We must and will instead conciliation process in Guatemala," he the rules under which Salvadorans and said on the third day of a four-day jourv infough Central America

American backing for rightist goveruments in Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador and Nicaragua and covert actions against leftist guerrillas over the sions" in the United States, Mr. Clinton

even as he made the pledge, the ad- must overcome steep hurdles to avoid ministration began steps to deport 5,000 being returned to their countries under Salvadorans and Guatemalans who the terms of the law, which Republicans entered the United States illegally in the sponsored.

Mr. Clinton vowed to try to change were returned to their homes. Under the Nicaraguan Adjustment

and Central American Relief Act of past four decades caused "bitter divi- 1997. Cubans and Nicaraguans who entered the United States illegally while fleeing leftist governments are granted a presumption of political hardship and

But Salvadorans and Guaternalans,

State Modernization Council said early

Thursday that the measures to be an-

nounced by Mr. Mahuad would be de-

signed to revive foreign investment in

a fourth day after Mr. Mahuad ordered

an emergency bank holiday to prevent

mass withdrawals amid fears the finan-

Strikers want Mr. Mahuad to back

down on austerity measures that have

cial system was nearing collapse.

Ecuador's banks remained closed for

Ecuador and generate jobs.

hurt many Ecuadorans.

that it has limited leverage to counter any continue to support the peace and re-

aftermath of a hurricane last October.

Guatemalans who entered the United would face political retribution if they

who fled authoritarian governments,

Continued from Page 1

The United States will no longer take

Mr. Clinton also promised to address

Violence Racks Ecuador During Strike

office seven months ago, met with his

economic advisers to hammer out details

poor Andean nation's collapsing econ-

omy. The national currency, the sucre,

He was due to speak to the country

Thursday night by radio and television.

The president will announce a package

of social and economic measures that

will allow Ecuador to start reconstruc-tion immediately." Defense Minister

lost 25 percent of its value last week.

President Jamil Mahuad, who took

■ Clinton Is Asked for Freer Trade

United States, saying it would help limit competitivity. illegal immigration and boost their fragile economies. Reuters reported from

Antigua, Guatemala. Wrapping up a four-day Central American tour, Mr. Clinton met the leaders of Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Belize and the Dominican Republic for a summit in a city that was the capital of all of Central America under Spanish colonial rule.

with its civil wars and hurricanes but said, 'We can truly rejoice that the springtime of renewal and rebuilding is here.' President Alvaro Arzu of Guatemala said the region needed the same access to U.S. markets as Mexico had through the

Mr. Clinton noted that Central Amer-

ica had had "a long and difficult season"

North American Free Trade Agree-"We only need one thing: access to markets, the Guatemalan leader said. Our land is fertile. Our people are hard-

GERMANY: Lafontaine Quits Coalition Continued from Page 1

Central American presidents pressed achieve. While it remains one of the it hoped to make good on its promises to Mr. Clinton on Thursday to support free world's two largest exporters, Germany create jobs and fulfill the expectations of

Germany has some of the world's highest wage costs, shortest working hours, longest vacations, oldest students and youngest retirees. As a result, many companies are fleeing abroad where social welfare is less costly and policies are more amenable to heftier profits.

After a successful election campaign in which Mr. Schroeder charmed voters with his pro-business credentials, Mr. Lafontaine parlayed his substantial political power as chairman of the winning party to secure the government's second most powerful post. He also charted a leftist economic policy that sought to close tax loopholes for corporations while giving tax breaks to lower and middle-income citizens as a reform plan would 'create uncertainty' way of stimulating demand in a and deter investors." Several of their way of stimulating demand in a moribund economy.

But in a cabinet showdown Wednesday that may have triggered Mr. La-fontaine's resignation, Mr. Schroeder angrily insisted to his assembled min-

isters that the government must stop imposing intolerable burdens on business if

Mr. Schroeder said all problems facing a Germany "must be viewed realistically" and "checked for any negative economic effect," according to his spokesman Uwe-Karsten Heye. The chancellor side it was suicidal for the government. make impossible demands, and he desclared, "I will not let policies against business be made with an "

business be made with me." Mr. Schroeder accused Mr. Laftie taine of alienating many business leaders with tax reform plans that would have closed many of the loopholes the

aside huge financial reserves. Last week, a group of 20 leading German business executives warned ME Schroeder in an open letter that the tax including leaders of top insurance an energy companies, said they would consider moving a significant part of their operations abroad if Mr. Lafontain were allowed to impose policies they? considered inimical to their interests.

Government plans to shut down Germany's 19 nuclear plants, which produce about 35 percent of the nation's electricity, have also outraged energy and utility companies. More than 30,000 workers from the energy industry staged protest marches in Bonn this week to dramatize their fears about their jobs.

AMBON: Christians and Muslims Seek Answers to Disturbances

Jose Gallardo said.

Continued from Page 1

by side in the Molucca islands for more than 200 years, prompting one Indonesian to describe the province's religious

harmony as "heaven on earth." But Indonesia's transition from Dutch colony to independent republic in 1945 altered the Moluccas' social structure. Where once Ambonese Christians were the privileged citizens of Dutch rule, nationalist Muslims took the lead in promoting the fledgling republic. One result was an ill-fated, quickly suppressed separatist movement of the so-called South Maluku Republic, which Ambon Is-

land's Christians supported. In the Suharto era, Muslim traders from neighboring provinces began fil-tering into the Moluccas, further dis-rupting the social order and eventually bringing the distribution of Muslims and Christians in the Moluccas to 50-50. In all of Indonesia, Muslims comprise a majority of more than 80 percent.

As Muslim migrants began to control the local economy, the old system of village interdependence, in which villages often banded together in the face of crisis, began to break down. This shift led Christian communities to suspect the government of favoritism, local Chris"There are intellectual leaders that try government of favoritism, local Chrissay, may have created an environment that became ripe for conflict.

We used to have tight social rules one of the first in Ambon to be attacked to spread outside of Maluku."

by mobs. "Perhaps Suharto was in power too long, promoting Islam more than Christianity, even though religion should never be politicized."

Although officials have blamed lurking "provocateurs," allegedly seeking to destabilize the country for their own political interests, the charred remains of Ambon's Muslim and Christian neigh-

borhoods tell a different story. There are campaigns urging ethnic Buginese, Butonese and Makasarese mi-grants to "get out or be killed." Angry graffiti have been scrawled on evacuated Muslim homes. Indonesian flags have been strung up in the ruins of Christian villages and the words "Christian dogs" spray-painted onto homes, a reference. residents say, to Christian sympathizers of Dutch colonial rule.

Some police and government officials attribute the violence to Ambonese gangsters who have been manipulated by political interests. According to this theory, an anti-Christian attack in November that killed 16 people was the opening salvo of the conflict. That battle reportedly drove Ambonese Christians out of their Jakaria stronghold back here to the provincial capital, and now they

tian leaders say. This development, they to dumb down the public for their own interest," said Governor Laconsica, a native Ambonese Muslim. "One reason for these incidents is that these proand values, but now they are gone, 'said vocateurs don't want to have a stable Father Liang, a pastor of Silo Church, government and they want the violence

Whatever the reason, military and civilian authorities have not been able to contain the violence; they have even been accused by each side of favoring the

Dissension within the military is the reason the armed forces have been unable to assert control, according to some analysts. The path to military success used to require quick suppression of unrest, but in today's pascent democracy the rules have changed. Clamping down too harshly may incite the ire of human rights groups and the public, they say,

eral Wiranto, has sent more than 3,000 troops to the Moluccas to establish order and take harsh measures against "dis-

Indonesia's armed forces chief, Gen-

Troops brought the harbor city under control by midafternoon. Some roads were blocked with trees and stones to separate Muslim and Christian pockets. There were no reports of deaths Thursday, although one official said several

Up to 10 people were believed to have

died after troops and police fired into

crowds of Christians and Muslims fight-

ing with Molotov cocktails, machetes

and spears Wednesday.

turbers of any religion or ethnicity.

■ Troops Stop Communal Clashes Acrid smoke hung over Ambon on Thursday as troops quelled sporadic communal clashes a day after battles between thousands of Christians and Muslims killed up to 10 people, Reuters reported from Ambon.

houses were on fire.

Israel Shrugs as Cohen Offers Arms to Egypt

The Associated Press
JERUSALEM — Defense Secretary William Cohen offered to sell \$3.2 billion worth of highly sophisticated U.S. weaponry to Egypt on Thursday. Mr. Cohen later met with Prime Minster Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel, who shrugged off the deal as 'nothing particularly new.'

The proposed sale, announced by Mr. Cohen in Cairo, includes 24 advanced-model F-16 fighter jets, 200 M1-A1 tanks and one eight-unit Patriot missile battery. israel has expressed concern about

Egypt and other Mideast allies of the United States acquiring the latest weaponry. But Thursday, Mr. Netanyahu played down the U.S.-Egyptian deal, saying that Egypt and Israel had been at peace for two decades. He also underscored the close defense ties between Israel and the

field of defense as intensely as Israel and the United States," he said. Mr. Netanyahu said the most important security issue for Israel is the development of ballistic missiles and chemical and biological weapons by

United States. "It will be very hard to

find two countries that cooperate in the

"radical regimes in the Mideast." In Israel, his last stop on his Mideast tour, Mr. Cohen was to meet with the two opposition party candidates who are campaigning to unseat Mr. Net-anyahu in elections scheduled for May - Ehud Barak, the Labor Party can- States and Britain on the affair.

didate, and a centrist party candidate, Yitzhak Mordechai. The secretary said those meetings were a courtesy and demonstrated Washington's neut rality in the political campaign.

Mr. Cohen announced the sale at a news conference after his meeting with President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, who requested the arms. The sale requires U.S. congressional approval.

The F-16s will join Egypt's force of 196 F-16s. The new fighters will cost

\$1.2 billion. The sale would substantially expand Egypt's armored capability, which includes 555 M1-A1 tanks. The new tanks will cost about \$680 million and be assembled in Egypt from parts manufactured in the United States.

■ Lockerbic Deal Stalled

Mr. Cohen said Thursday in Cairo that little progress had been made toward finalizing a deal for the handover of two Libyan suspects for trial in the Lockerbie bombing, Agence France-Presse reported.

"We believe the offer that is currently on the table will not remain there indefinitely and that Gadhafi should accept it and move forward to a res-

olution of the issue," Mr. Cohen said. Mr. Gadhafi, who also met this week in Cairo with Mr. Mubarak, said Tuesday that "only a few small questions" remain to be settled before agreement is reached between Libya, the United

Researchers Find First Gene Known To Control Obesity

The Associated Press NEW YORK - Researchers have identified the first gene known to suppress obesity, and regulate the burning of calories, a key step that may help in developing a drug that keeps people

The gene, known as Mahogany or the MG gene, was discovered in mice. It is the sixth gene found to be implicated in obesity, but researchers said it was the first discovered to regulate metabolism and the expenditure of energy.

In one of two studies published in Thursday's issue of the journal Nature.

scientists at Millennium Pharmaceutic-

als in Cambridge, Massachusetts, tested, groups of mice with normal and mutated MG genes. They sustained the mice on diets with varying percentages of fat. Mice with a mutated MG gene did not gain weight whether they are a high-fat diet or a low-fat one. Mice with the normal gene gained weight on the high-

Researchers said they were optimistic that the gene would play the same role in humans, but cautioned that it has been demonstrated only in mice. Mahogany refers to the animals' brown für.

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INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE, FRIDAY, MARCH 12, 1999

GIVENCHY

INTERNATIONAL

Hutu Problem Remains Intractable

Murders in Uganda Underscore Africa's and World's Ongoing Failure

Washington Post Service

JOHANNESBURG — The massacre of foreign tourists in Uganda by Congobased Rwandan rebels last week highlighted one of Central Africa's most intractable issues: how to rein in the tremists and numerous other stateless Hutu extremists who have spread havoc rebel groups that function like nomadic across the region since their failed attempt to exterminate Rwanda's Tutsi minority in 1994.

After the Bwindi National Park massacre in which 12 people, including two Americans, four Britons and two New Zealanders, were hacked or shot to death, President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda pledged bluntly that the Hutu extremists believed responsible would be hunted, captured, even killed.

But Ugandan and Rwandan troops have been trying for years to vanquish the Hutu extremists, remnants of the militias that carried out the governmentorchestrated massacres of more than a half-million Tutsi and moderate Hutu in Rwanda in 1994. Uganda and Rwanda have fought two wars in Congo - one of which continues after seven months to counter the regional threat that the Hutu extremists have posed since they fled Rwanda after the genocide was thwarted. Yet, the Hutu diaspora still shakes Central Africa.

At several key junctures in the rethe Hutu extremists, foreign powers Rwandan genocide was unfolding, a fact for which both the United States and the tremists. The United Nations is not United Nations have offered apologies.

In recent weeks, however, African, "This is something that they them-U.S. and British diplomats, as well as the selves will have to sort out." a UN Mr. Kabila renamed the UN, have stepped up efforts to end the Congo war, which is rooted, in part, in the persistence of the threat that Congobased Hutu present to Rwanda, Uganda

The UN secretary-general, Kofi Annan, said recently that a peace force possibly numbering as many as 15,000 - would probably be needed in Congo once a solid cease-fire deal emerges between President Laurent Kabila of Congo and the rebels trying to overthrow him and the eight nations backing one side or the other.

Rwanda, Uganda and Burundi are fighting alongside the Congolese rebels against Mr. Kabila's government, which is supported by Angola, Chad, Namibia, Zimbabwe and, according to some re-

Last month, President Bill Clinton acknowledged for the first time the possible need for a peace force, saying that the United States would support an "internationally recognized" peacekeeping effort in Congo.

that there would be such a force," though its composition and mandate are far from determined, said a Western diplomat in-

volved in the Congo mediations. formula for dealing with the Hutu exwarriors and use eastern Congo's badlands as a base.

hamwe ("those who work together" in the Kinyarwanda language) is the most infamous. In Rwanda, before the Hutu Interahamwe was a militia of about 50,000 members that coalesced around ethnic hatred. Today, fear of the exiled Interahamwe is so pervasive in the region that any Hutu with a weapon often is assumed to be a member.

The Intershamwe is allied with Horu extremists who were members of Rwanda's army, as well as with Congolese Hutu driven by similar ethnic animus. The group that killed the tourists in Uganda was identified as the Army for the Liberation of Rwanda, which a U.S. official said is closely linked to the In-

Even if the nine nations involved in the Congo war could agree to a cease-fire and a settlement that would allow a were left to fend for themselves. The gion's long saga of violence involving peace force to enter the region, making such a peace force workable would likely to do it.

official said of the regional states' ability to deal with the extremists.

After eight months of fighting, with no clear end in sight, Mr. Kabila's prime military backers, Zimbabwe and Angola, are ready to get out. Angola, which has plunged into renewed civil war, already has withdrawn most of its troops from Congo, diplomats and news reports and economic decline.

These strategic changes have created new space for diplomatic initiatives. The Rwanda, its close allies. U.S. undersecretary of state, Thomas Pickering, was dispatched to the region this month, following weeks of talks held in various African capitals by Howard Wolpe, the U.S. envoy for the so-called Great Lakes region, which encompasses Congo, Rwanda, Burundi and Uganda. This coincided with recent efforts by Britain's minister of state in the Foreign Office, Tony Lloyd, to press for a Congo

"It's been taken as an article of faith proposals by President Nelson Mandela of South Africa and President Frederick Chiluba of Zambia.

But the intractability of the Congo olved in the Congo mediations.

But negotiators have yet to articulate a conflict is etched starkly by its history, and the rest of the world has come face to face with the Hutu extremist problem several times before.

Although a UN peace force was in Rwanda when the genocide began in April 1994, other nations decided not to Of several Hutu groups scattered intervene and withdrew the peace force around Rwanda's borders, the Intera-rather than beef it up. The genocide intervene and withdrew the peace force ended only when a Rwandan Tutsi rebel force routed the Hutu-led army and militias in July 1994, driving them across were driven from power in 1994, the the border to Congo, and established the government that now rules Rwanda.

There, in what was then called Zaire, the Hutu refugees gathered in UN camps that gradually came to be controlled by the armed extremists, who transformed the camps into virtual military bases and used them to strike across the border at

When Rwanda's new Tursi-led military took matters into its own hands and, with Uganda's support, invaded Zaire to break up the camps, an estimated 1.1 million refugees were set adrift. Fighting forced about 600,000 of them to flee back to Rwanda — and scuttled plans for a Canadian-led UN peace force to assist in militant Huto used these as human shields to drive deeper into Zaire. Rwandan and Congolese Tutsi troops pursued the Hutu and massacred an untold number as part of a military campaign that ultimately ousted Mobotu Sese Seko, the dictator of

Mr. Kabila renamed the country Congo, but little else changed. Hutu militancy in eastern Congo, survived, and Mr. Kabila's inability to suppress it eventually turned Rwanda and Uganda against him. Rwanda now alleges that, rather than help secure the eastern regions, Mr. Kabila allied himself with the Hutu militants. and even trained them in his army.

Washington, while taking no position say. Zimbabwe is beset by civil unrest in the Congo war beyond pushing for its negotiated end, is widely perceived in the region to be siding with Uganda and

In messages sent out of Bwindi Na-tional Park with survivors of last week's massacre or left near the victims' bodies, the killers portrayed the slayings as a punishment for the West's ties with Rwanda. That prompted a tough response from Mr. Clinton, who said Thursday: "If this attack was intended as a warning to our nation to stop supporting those in the region seeking repeace deal, including a reported proposal for about 12,000 peacekeepers.

The current peace plan stems from not be deterred in any way." conciliation and justice, those who committed it should understand that we will



DUTCH CHEERS - President Nelson Mandela of South Africa waving to crowds Thursday during a boat ride in Amsterdam, his first stop on a trip to Europe. Two players from the Ajax Amsterdam soccer team, Benni McCarthy, left, and Aaron Mokoena joined him.

Woodward Inquiry Proposed After Report on Baby's Death

The Associated Press

BOSTON - Lawyers for the former British au pair Louise Woodward said Thursday they would re-examine how a baby had died while in her care.

The decision followed the broadcast Sunday of a report on the program "60 Minutes" in which two doctors said they believed that 8-month-old Matthew Eappen had been strangled, not shaken by Ms. Woodward as prosecutors at her trial charged.

The attorneys said they were glad the doctors had agreed that Matthew had not died from shaken-baby syndrome as the prosecutors had claimed.

The report has stirred another wave of controversy over the case. It was revealed that one of the doctors had been prison. She returned to England in June paid by defense lawyers, and a group of 1998 after the judge's sentence was upmore than 70 physicians criticized the held on appeal.

television report carried on the CBS

network as "preposterous." Harvey Silverglate, a defense lawyer, said the defense team's own experts would review the strangulation findings and then approach prosecutors to see whether they could jointly initiate an

independent investigation.

The result could lead to a motion for a new trial, but lawyers said that decision would depend on the findings and would ultimately have to be made by Ms.

Woodward

Ms. Woodward was convicted in October 1997 of second-degree murder in in a letter Wednesday that Northwest Matthew Eappen's death. The trial judge transported 125,000 minors annually reduced her sentence to involuntary manslaughter and released her from

Congress Gives Air Travelers A Forum for Their Outrage

The Associated Press WASHINGTON - First there were () mechanical problems at Denver, then the missed connection at Houston, an employee strike that passengers weren't told about, a detour to Miami during Super Bowl weekend without help in

Super Bowl weekend without help in getting a hotel, a switched airline to the Grand Caymans and, adding injury to insult, lost luggage for which the original airline agreed to pay only \$640.

The story by Darlene McCord of Glenbrook, Nevada, of her vacation "tumed nightmare" marked the second day of congressional hearings in which payeless, travel agents and consumer travelers, travel agents and consumer groups have skewered the airlines for

She testified to the Senate Commerce Committee, whose chairman, Senator John McCain, Republican of Arizona, is sponsoring one of several bills aimed at

sponsoring one of several oils aimed at strengthening rights of air travelers.
"This winter the pot boiled over when Northwest Airlines held passengers in-side an aircraft unable to take off due to weather at Detroit for seven and more hours," said Panl Ruden of the American Society of Travel Agents. "More recently, the 'sickout' by American Airlines pilots further enraged the public."

The industry, in testimony prepared for the Senate Commerce Committee on Thursday, said it had heard the complaints and was trying to respond.

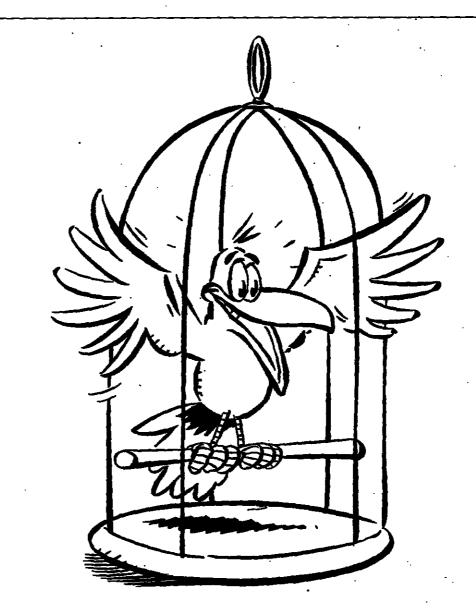
A representative outlined several steps being taken, including providing timely information on flight delays and cancellations, quoting passengers the lowest fares available for which they qualify and assuring that unaccompanied minors have appropriate supervision.

At similar hearings in the House of

Representatives this week, Tami Rourke of Newberry, Michigan, testified about how her son, 6, traveling alone on a Northwest Airlines flight in 1996, was delayed in Minneapolis overnight. He was put in a hotel room with a 15-year-old boy who sexually molested him, Ms. Rourke said, even though the industry's unaccompanied minors program requires children to be monitored at all times.

An outside counsel for Northwest said in a letter Wednesday that Northwest and had never received another complaint of child molestation. He said the police had closed the investigation without filing charges after interviewing the 15-year-old, who denied the incident.





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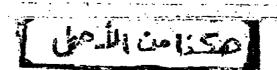
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EUROPE

Congress in Air Tracelen A Forum for Their Outros Farm Ministers Reach EU Deal

By Barry James International Herald Tribune

ministers agreed on broad refailed to achieve radical cuts

in spending
The changes continue
moves first introduced in
1992 to divert aid away from price subsidies and toward direct support for farmers. Rather than buying up farm products to keep prices ar-tificially high, the proposed changes aim to extend the policy of compensating farmers directly for losses.

After three weeks of complex negotiations, the ministers broke off their talks in lin to cut direct aid over time the early hours of the morn- to achieve desired savings. ing with an agreement that must now be approved by must now be approved by ture minister, Karl-Heinz finance ministers and heads Funke, said, "We have more of government at a summit or less hit the nail on the meeting in Berlin later this month. There, the agreement could run into difficulties be- about 2 percent. cause the meeting is aimed at bringing the EU's budget under control to set the scene for new members to enter the union early in the next century. Ten East and Central European nations plus dates for membership.

The result reached Thurs-

short term, analysts said. But because more than half of Europe's 7 million farmers BRUSSELS — Farm are over 55 years old, the rural population is in steady form of the European Un-decline, and the compensaion's Common Agricultural tion payments are likely to Policy on Thursday, but decline over time. On the other hand, subsidies encourage ever higher spending because they encourage overproduction that forces down market prices, requiring yet further infusions of aid.

The French farm minister, Jean Glavany, warned that the farm deal could still fall apart if the EU leaders fail to agree on an overall budget package. "The work remains unfinished," he said. His British counterpart said leaders might decide at Ber-

But the German agriculhead," even though the deal exceeded budget limits by And France's finance

minister, Dominique Strauss-Kahn, said the agreement opened the way for a budget pact. "Things are starting to move," he said. Luc Guyau, the president

Cyprus are formal candi- of the committee of European farm unions, COPA, said he would meet Chancrease spending over the Germany on Friday to ex- longest-lasting and most vis- world trade liberalization



حكذامن الأحل

A French farmer struggling with riot police as he was arrested Thursday in Rodez. He was protesting plans to reform European Union agricultural policy.

tural Policy was first estab-

lished in the early 1960s."

ingly felt in coming years.

environment too.

press dissatisfaction with the ible sign of integration. agreement, which he said only partly met farmers' needs. He said some farmers, for example those who grow oil seeds, were even less protected than their counterparts in the United States.

Under the proposed package, farm support will total about 313 billion euros (\$343 billion) over a sevenyear period from 2000 to 2006, or about 44.7 billion euros a year. Finance ministers have called for spending to be kept at its present level of 40.4 billion euros.

Agricultural support is the biggest element in the EU's 86 billion euro annual budget, day may be actually to in- cellor Gerhard Schroeder of but it is also the union's it can defend in the next

talks scheduled to begin late The EU commissioner in this year. Subsidies drive charge of agriculture, Franz prices higher than the world Fischler, said the agreement level, and products then have 'was the most radical reform to be further subsidized to since the Common Agriculcompete on global markets. The EU is under pressure from trade partners such as He said it was "a solid basis the United States or Australia for ensuring the future de-velopment of the EU's ag-ricultural sector" and would

to reduce market-distorting

farm aid. Mr. Fischler said

the EU's new position will be "defended with vigor." benefit consumers and the The changes are based on Mr. Fischler acknowlproposals put forward by the edged the agreement was a European Commission, the EU's executive body, last compromise, but he said its effects would be increas-March. Mr. Fischler said the ministers had "shown great The reform is intended to political courage in taking equip the EU with a position decisions which may seem to some to be politically unU.S. Keeps Heat on Serbs

Holbrooke Will Stay in Contact on Kosovo Crisis

HOCA ZAGRADSKA, Yugoslavia — Yugoslav troops poured into southwest- foreign policy issues. em Kosovo and pounded villages near the province's Papandreou of Greece said he second-largest city on Thursday as fighting spread in the wake of the failure of a U.S.

peace mission. Hundreds of ethnic Albanians fled the new offensive on tractor-pulled wagons as tank and mortar fire boomed in an area surrounded by army troops and Serbian police units that moved in before dawn.

Fighting also continued in five Serb policemen and one ethnic Albanian fighter had been killed, while Serbian sources denied that any of their forces were killed but said two were wounded elsewhere in the province.

The new fighting - and U.S. envoy Richard Holbrooke's inability to persuade President Slobodan Milosevic to agree to the stationing of NATO troops in Kosovo muddled the chances of success for new peace talks scheduled for Monday.

The eruption of fighting in the Prizren area came just hours after Mr. Holbrooke was turned aside in his talks with Mr. Western-backed settlement for the province.

With no political settlement in sight, the Russian foreign minister, Igor Ivanov, arrived for

discussions with President Milosevic. Greece and Russia have

close ties to their fellow Or-thodox Christian Serbs and lean in their favor on critical

Foreign Minister George hoped the strong links be-tween Athens and Belgrade might prove useful.

He and Mr. Ivanov are to see Mr. Milosevic on Friday. After eight hours of talks with the Yugoslav leader on Wednesday, Mr. Holbrooke reported that the Serbs still objected to NATO troops being stationed in Kosovo — a key part of the deal which the north. The Kosovo Lib- promises autonomy to the eration Army asserted that majority ethnic Albanian

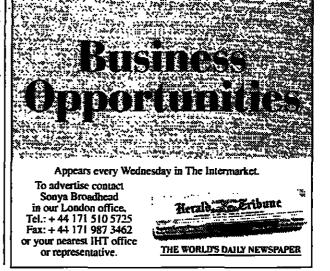
> While Moscow has influence over Mr. Milosevic, it opposes aspects of Western policy such as threats of air

■ House Sees Dangers

Defying a request by the Clinton administration for a delay, the House of Representatives debated whether U.S. troops should be sent to Kosovo if a peace agreement is achieved. The Associated Press reported from Wash-

ington. Democrats called the timing dangerous, with alreadytroubled peace talks set to resume in France on Monday, even though the measure before the House is nonbind-

But the House speaker, Dennis Hastert, Republican of Illinois, took to the floor to open the debate with an impassioned plea for the House to grapple with the issue.



Irish Anti-Abortion Violence

By James F. Clarity

DUBLIN -- A High Court judge Thursday extended indefinitely an order prohibiting anti-abortion militants from picketing or trespassing at the Irish Family Planning Asso-

ciation office in the center of the city. The ruling came after a group of anti-abortion militants, including about 40 Amer-year for abortions. icans, forced their way into a Dublin family Saturday, re-igniting the highly emotional issue of abortion in this overwhelmingly Rostrictive. man Catholic country.

definite period.

The chief executive of the planning association, Tony O'Brien, welcomed the de- calls to radio talk shows. Many callers dewhich also had about 40 people at the oc-cupation, and the Christian Defense Coali-effect, that the Americans should go home. tion, a Washington-based group headed by the Reverend Patrick Mahony.

The occupation on Saturday, he said; was "It's not what we want to happen in Ire-the first forced incursion into a family plan-land," Mr. Kenny said. "That's not the way ning premises. There were none even during the vehement debate in 1992 as the Irish

have changed abortion law.

Abortion is constitutionally permissible in Ireland in cases of danger to a mother's life, according to a 1992 ruling of the Supreme Court. But there are no legal facilities for such operations and no legal exception in cases of

About 5,000 Irish women go to Britain each

In 1992, voters rejected a proposed revision planning office and occupied it two hours on of the abortion law, some feeling the proposal was too liberal, some saying it was too re-

The militant groups were not represented in gally distribute information on the availability court Thursday, and the prohibition, first of abortions in foreign countries, but it is not granted on Monday, was ordered for an in- allowed to advise women to have the op-

country's favorite emcees and the moderator Mr. O'Brien said the occupation of the of the main morning talk show on national office raised fears that American violence and radio, upbraided the leader of the American killing in opposition to abortion would spread group, Mr. Mahony, a Protestant evangelist

Mr. Mahony told Mr. Kenny, and hundreds

Judge Extends Ban on Local and American Militants

terview, "given the unfortunate history of the issue in America." New York Times Service

The family planning association may le-

The revived issue led to scores of phone

cision of Judge Imelda Macken that restrains fended the right of the intruders to enter the leaders of the Irish group, Youth Defense, clinic as a valid tactic to thwart the staff, In a live interview, Pat Kenny, one of the

we do our business. prepared to vote in a referendum that would of thousands of listeners, that he deplored have changed abortion law. The involvement of extreme American who have used it to advance their campaign. militants is probably the most sinister de- He said the intruders were well-behaved, alvelopment in Ireland's long-running abortion though he acknowledged that they refused to controversy," Mr. O'Brien said in an in- leave until ushered out by the police.

BRIEFLY

Bomb Chemicals Found In Raid on Basque Villa the country's citizenship law, official

PARIS - The police on Thursday discovered 300 kilograms (660 pounds) of reached the agreement in talks with the chemicals used to make bombs at a villa in southwest France belonging to one of six alleged Basque militants arrested two days of Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder's Social earlier, police sources said.

The sources, speaking on condition of crats. anonymity, said that the police detained, then released, three men initially suspected

southwest France, and discovered a stash of opt for German nationality or the nationsodium chloride, used in making ality of their parents at age 23. homemade bombs, the police sources said. They also found ETA manuals and internal They also found ETA manuals and internal documents, the sources said without elab-

Greece Charges Ocalan

ATHENS — Public prosecutors Thursday charged 18 people and the Kurdish rebel leader Abdullah Ocalan with a series rebel leader Abdullah Ocalan with a series on term for Mr. Berlusconi, the media magday charged 18 people and the Kurdish of crimes, including endangering the safety

Prime Minister Costas Simitis ordered the criminal investigation in an effort to clear his government of responsibility after villa and land on the outskirts of Milan, Turkish agents seized Mr. Ocalan last where he still lives. Prosecutors charged month outside the Greek ambassador's res-

idence in Nairobi. Mr. Ocalan's arrest by its archrival Tirkey was seen as a national humiliation in victed in three separate cases, for illegal Greece and led to a political crisis that party financing, bribery and fraud. forced Mr. Simitis to ask for the resignation of three ministers.

Bonn Citizenship Deal

MAINZ, Germany — The German gov-sentence is less than two years.

ernment has struck a deal with a small opposition party to secure approval from the upper house of Parliament for a reform

said Thursday.
Federal Interior Minister Otto Schily government of the western state of Rhineland-Palatinate, which is run by a coalition Democrats and the liberal Free Demo-

At issue is a government bill that would automatically grant German nationality to of a connection with the six.

The police raided an isolated villa in Saint-Andre-de-Seignanx, near Bayonne in

MILAN - An Italian court cleared former Prime Minsiter Silvio Berlusconi in a tax frand case Thursday — his first acquittal in a series of prosecutions that already has brought three convictions.

nate and conservative Forza Italia party leader, on charges of tax evasion and falsification of financial statements.

The case involved the 1990 purchase of a minimize his taxes.

Mr. Berlusconi had earlier been con-He has consistently denied any wrong-

(AP) doing in all the cases and portrayed himself as the target of a political vendetta by prosecutors he claims sympathize with the left. He is appealing the convictions and jail terms, which are rarely served in Italy if the



Central America

The last time an American president went to Central America was 1982, when Ronald Reagan visited Honduras and Costa Rica. That year was one of the bloodiest for El Salvador and for Guatemala, where a truth commission recently labeled 1982 as a peak period for what it termed the military's "genocide" of Mayan Indians in the civil war. But Mr. Reagan praised the mil-itary leaders of both nations and spent billions in lethal aid to their governments and the Nicaraguan contras.

This week Bill Clinton is visiting a very different Central America and carries a very different message. His trip is a belated recognition of the region's progress and importance to the United States, But Washington's support for past wars is not being matched by its support for peace today.

In El Salvador and Guatemala, UNsponsored peace agreements have brought former guerrillas into politics and committed the governments to social reforms. Mayan Indians, the marginalized majority in Guatemala, now serve in Parliament and as local mayors. In El Salvador the party of the former guerrillas lost this week's presidential election but was able to campaign freely. The Sandinistas in Nicaragua won the war but lost at the ballot box, and stepped down in 1990.

The conflicts are over, but Central America has essentially returned to the conditions of misery and inequality that caused the wars to begin with. While El Salvador has experienced steady economic growth, poverty in rural areas remains unchanged. In Nicaragua, the poor are worse off than at its war's end. Huge debts have kept the region from spending money to fight poverty. Nicaragua, for example, pays 11 times more in debt service than spends on health care each year.

Many of the postwar governments' new police or judicial systems have not solved the underlying problems that made these bodies responsive mainly to the rich and powerful. Local governments admit that free market changes have so far mainly served the urban wealthy and middle class. Last year the region suffered its worst natural disaster of the century in Hurricane Mitch, which will set back development in Honduras and Nicaragua for decades.

Mr. Clinton's visit, important as it is, is a missed opportunity. He is doling out his celebrated compassion, but little in the way of money. A billion dollars in post-hurricane aid is being held up in Congress. The administration should allow the quarter-million immigrants who fled the wars in El Salvador and Guatemala to stay in the United States. It must forgive the debt burdens that were already crippling the countries most devastated by the hurricane, and try to persuade international lending institutions to do the same. Washington spent billions of dollars in the 1980s on wars in Central America. It should now increase its commitment to supporting peace and prosperity.

-THE NEW YORK TIMES

Consensus on Kosovo

It is a bad time for Congress to debate whether the United States should send troops to help police any peace reached in Kosovo. But there is no better time left, and Congress has good reason to proceed. The Clinton administration is consumed by a fear that the president will be repudiated by Congress even as negotiations to deliver Serbs and Kosovars to a settlement are in train. It would send a signal of weakness and could well invite the contending Balkan parties to move into a higher military gear.

Such a vote, however, would also put directly on Congress the burden of cutting off a developing American political/military initiative. Congress would be taking on itself a grave re-sponsibility, but it also would be doing what it presumably thinks is the right thing -- heading off American participation in an operation of uncertain costs, dimensions and results before things get worse.
We happen to think that the foreign

policy considerations — meaning the additional killing and violence, the

possible further expansion of the war, and the issues of American and NATO credibility - require and justify careful American participation in a second NATO peacekeeping force. We think that the stakes are sufficient to make it highly desirable that the president's policy be supported by a strong bi-partisan vote in Congress. The president ought to be asking forthrightly for congressional approval, not trying to evade a congressional judgment on his policy in Kosovo.

Otherwise Congress will find itself in the familiar position of evading its constitutional responsibility to participate in a timely and meaningful fashion in making American intervention policy. and complaining sourly about it later. The president will find himself either repudiated, in which case everyone will know where the responsibility lies, or supported, in which case his policy will be much the stronger for it. It takes a bold decision for Bill Clinton to bring Congress in as a partner in Kosovo, and he should not shy away from it.

Now Elizabeth Dole?

the United States is not a breakthrough. Victoria Woodhull was a minor-party candidate before women had the right to vote, and elected officials like Margaret Chase Smith and Shirley Chisholm have made long-shot bids for the nomination. But Elizabeth Dole is still making history as the first woman to enter the presidential primary season as one of the front-runners. She took another step toward a full-fledged candidacy for the Republican nomination on Wednesday when she announced that she had formed an exploratory committee.

The Republican Party has long had a "gender gap" problem with women voters, and Mrs. Dole is marketing herself as a gap-bridger who can moderate the harsh, confrontational tone that women find particularly disturbing in Republican policies and rhetoric, But Governor George W. Bush of Texas is tilling that field, too, with his 'compassionate conservatism.'

One challenge in evaluating Mrs. Dole's candidacy is not to cut her too much slack simply because America has waited so long for a woman to make a serious run for president. She deserves to be judged in comparison with her opponents, not with an ideal. She would probably not be in her present position if she were not the wife of Bob Dole. But then Mr. Bush might be just one of a pack of appealing Republican governors if he were not the offspring of a former president.

Mrs. Dole has never run for office. except in the role of supportive spouse. But Mr. Bush has no experience in Washington, except in the role of first

A woman running for president of son. Mrs. Dole does have a solid réwhich makes an interesting contrast to Mr. Bush's experience in state government. Is the public still tired of Washington insiders, or is it looking for a president with experience in making the federal government work?

Mr. Bush has made clear that he does not intend to take any national policy stands until the Texas state legislature ends its session in late spring. That will be a problem for Mrs. Dole, who risks looking insubstantial if she spends all that time campaigning on generalities and trying to play it safe. The downside of all this new positive politics is its occasionally gooey tone. Mrs. Dole needs to start speaking frankly to the American people about her ideas on taxes, education and hotbutton issues like abortion and American-Chinese relations.

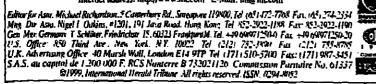
As a woman, she will have to put up with a special kind of scrutiny. Critiques of her appearance, wardrobe and style will go far beyond anything her male opponents will have to endure. That is unfortunate but inevitable, since she is taking the public on a shakedown cruise, acclimating it to what will inevitably be a long line of women presidential candidates in the future.

The women who are moving up the political ladder behind her may be able to enter the competition on a more even basis because Élizabeth Dole got the public used to the idea of seeing a woman running for the White House. If that happens, her own candidacy will be a success no matter who winds up as the Republican nominee next year.

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Between America and Europe, the Mooring Is Firm

PARIS — Arguments about the fu-ture of NATO are coming to a head as the allies work out a "new strategic concept" to be proclaimed at 50th anniversary celebrations in Washington next month. Trans-Atlantic relations appear to be in another bad patch, particularly because of sharpened trade disputes and the banana war.

Cold War pressures for political solidarity to overcome commercial quarrels no longer assure a reasonable compromise before much more damage is done, it has been noted. The argument should be turned the other way around. Without the security incentive as an excuse, both the United States and Europe should see even more clearly the importance of mutual relations for world economic health, especially given still unresolved crises.

Even as quarreling grows acute over the specifics of the NATO doctrine. three essentials have become clear be-

yond further question. One is that NATO must continue. Everybody involved still considers it necessary. That was not at all the case less than a decade ago after the Soviet Union collapsed. Many predicted that NATO would come to be seen as obsolete, a burden of obeisance to America for the Europeans, a drag of ex-pensive and unrequired obligation for pean power because the security, sta-

By Flora Lewis

the Americans. That has not happened. The second is that NATO's role has changed, and that NATO must be prepared to respond to security problems beyond the geography set down in the Washington treaty. The late NATO Secretary-General Manfred Wörner kept repeating "Out of area or out of business" to those reluctant to see the

alliance transcend its initial limits. There is now an intense controversy. primarily between Washington and Par-is, over how to define NATO's expanded role and whether it should consider itself a kind of autonomous world policeman or depend on mandates from the UN Security Council. But the dispute is about how and how far to go "out of area," not whether NATO should be confined to territorial defense. The new threats are recognized as

not necessarily about protecting borders -- crime, terrorism, spread of. weapons of mass destruction. The new goal has been called "cooperative security." It does not require the designation of a specific enemy.

The third essential agreement is that the trans-Atlantic bond must be maintained, that America remains a Euro-

vital national interest, and that Europe needs America not only for support but to provide the initiative that its lack of structural and political unity prevents it

from generating. These are the foundations, and they are not being challenged.

Therefore, attention is shifting to working out relative responsibilities in the new circumstances, which also include NATO enlargement to the east and European Union attempts to achieve a "defense identity" now that the EU has reached monetary integration for most of its members. The po-sitions are not so far apart as the shrillness of the arguments makes it sound.

The United States no longer assumes that a European capacity to organize defense operations without U.S. leadership would weaken NATO. France no longer asserts the illusion of its need for "independent" defense, and indeed now argues that "multilateralism" is the best way to resist U.S. hegemony.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair has proposed what could become a useful compromise position providing for European action where the United States is not keen to bear the brunt, as in Kosovo for example, but in a way that

maintains the political partnership. When you look closer, the problems

bility and prosperity of Europe are its are more money and hardware than principle. European defense budgets have been cut dramatically without, except for Britain, being redirected for new needs of equipment and capacity to project force.

As a result, with a professional army smaller than the French or German. Britain can send more troops on outside missions. France is gradually transforming its force, but there is not yet a joint European capacity to manage without a U.S. contribution.

From the U.S. point of view, the Blair approach would be a step toward burden-sharing." A more organized European defense policy establishment would make consultations easier for the United States. Meanwhile, Washington complains about European reluctance to invest in advanced weaponry compatible with new U.S. equipment.

There are layers of domestic economic and political problems beneath what appear as organizational controversy in European-U.S. relations. They will not all be resolved in time for the Washington summit. But they need not be a menace to a productive common future if the disputes of the moment are not allowed to obscure the underlying understanding.

'This Is Certainly Not the Liberated Europe We Sought to Build Up'

public become members of NATO at a signing ceremony this Friday in Independence, Missouri. It was in Missouri, at Westminster College in Fulton on March 5, 1946, that Winston Churchill delivered his famous warning to the democracies of the Soviet Communist menace ahead. Here are excerpts from that speech:

Ladies and gentlemen, the United States stands at this time at the pinnacle of world power. It is a solemn moment for the American Democracy. For with primacy in power is also joined an aweinspiring accountability to the future. If you look around you, you must feel not only the sense of duty done but also you must feel anxiety lest you fall below the level of achievement.

A shadow has fallen upon the scenes so lately light by the Allied victory. Nobody knows what Soviet Russia and its Communist international organization intends to do in the immediate fu-

expansive and proselytizing tendencies. We welcome Russia to her rightful place among the leading nations of the world. It is my duty however, to place before you certain facts about the present position in Europe.

From Stettin in the Baltic to Trieste in the Adriatic an iron curtain has descended across the Continent. Behind that line lie all the capitals of the ancient states of Central and Eastern Europe. Warsaw, Berlin, Prague, Vienna, Budapest, Belgrade, Bucharest and Sofia, all these famous cities and the populations around them lie in what I must call the Soviet sphere, and all are subject in one form or another, not only to Soviet influence but to a very high and, in some cases, increasing measure of control from Moscow.

The Russian-dominated Polish gov-ernment has been encouraged to make enormous and wrongful inroads upon Germany, and mass expulsions of millions of Germans on a scale grievous and

The Communist parties, which were very small in all these eastern states, have been raised to preeminence and power far beyond their numbers and are seeking everywhere to obtain totalitar-

ian control. Police governments are pre-

vailing in nearly every case.

ican and British zones.

At the end of the fighting last June, the American and British Armies withdrew westward, in accordance with an earlier agreement, to a depth at some points of 150 miles upon a front of nearly 400 miles, in order to allow our Russian allies to occupy this vast expanse of territory which the Western Democracies had conquered. If now the Soviet Government tries, by separate action, to build up a pro-Communist Germany in their areas, this will cause new serious difficulties in the Amer-

Whatever conclusions may be drawn from these facts — and facts they are this is certainly not the Liberated Europe we fought to build up. Nor is it

Poland. Hungary and the Czech Re-ture, or what are the limits, if any, to their undreamed of are now taking place. one which contains the essentials of the Communist parties, which were permanent peace. The safety of the world, ladies and gentlemen, requires a new unity in Europe, from which no nation should be permanently outcast. Twice the United State has had to

send several millions of its young men across the Atlantic to find the war; but now war can find any nation, wherever it may dwell between dusk and dawn.

Surely we should work with conscious purpose for a grand pacification of Europe. I repulse the idea that a new war is inevitable; still more that it is imminent. It is because I am sure that our fortunes are still in our own hands and that we hold the power to save the future, that I feel the duty to speak out now that I have the occasion and the opportunity to do so.

From what I have seen of our Russian friends and allies during the war. I am convinced that there is nothing for which they have less respect than for weakness, especially military weakness.

International Herald Tribune

Washington Should Try Engagement With Pyongyang

NEW YORK — As the United States continues to spar with North Korea over cently surfaced. Can the outside vestments in the North. world do business with North Korea? If so, does Washington need to change its approach in dealing with this reclusive and difficult regime? In both cases,

the answer is "yes." South Korea, under President Kim Dae Jung has successfully launched a "sunshine" policy toward the North promoting broad economic engagement and pushing inter-Korean exchanges and cooperation. Military and security issues are handled on a separate track.

North Korea has shown modest but encouraging signs of with Pyongyang to construct accommodating the South. two nuclear power reactors to

AMBRIDGE, Massachu-

sight, even before their guilt

Several days later he an-

Museveni has suspended all human rights for Hutu in the

It took the deaths of the

Western tourists to focus at-

tention on abominations being

committed in the region. Hun-

dreds of African lives are be-

ing lost each day because of a

conflict that pits Congo

(formerly Zaire) against pre-

dominantly Tutsi rebels who

are backed by the governments

tory of backing African dic-tators. Mobutu Sese Seko of

Zaire and Samuel Doe of

Liberia were darlings of the

West, just as Mr. Museveni of

de facto head of state in

Like Mr. Mobutu from the

1960s to the mid-'90s, Mr.

Museveni, whose country the

Rwanda, are now,

The United States has a his-

of Uganda and Rwanda.

was established.

troubled area.

By Donald P. Gregg and Mitchell B. Reiss

access to the North's suspected North in 1998 alone than in the nuclear weapons site and hav-ing it constrain its ballistic mis-100 separated families had re-mapping direct transportation sile program, a set of more unions. Small and medium-routes to deliver workers and fundamental concerns has re- sized firms are exploring in-

Official North-South dialogue has taken place in Beijing and at Panmunjom. Recently, the North proposed holding "high-level political talks" with the South. None of these developments would have been predicted a year ago.

North Korea has cooperated with the international organization charged with carrying out an October 1994 nuclear deal. In the past four years the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization, KEDO, has entered into dozens of agreements

More South Koreans visited the generate electricity in the North. These have included unprece-

> components to the site. Pyongyang has stuck by KEDO has been late in fulfilling its commitment to deliver heavy fuel oil to the North

for two years running, and has yet to finalize either the financing for the project or the construction contract with the South Korean utility that is building the two power plants.

Washington needs clear objectives. Unfortunately, one has to go back to the Vietnam War to recall a time of greater tension between the White House and Congress. The hostile and heavy partisan environment that today characterizes Washington

makes any policy more difficult to develop and implement. At a recent-Korea Society

conference in New York there was some evidence of conver- back this approach, since Presgence among Democratic and Republican foreign policy ex- vocated improved U.S.-North perts on how the United States Korean relations on the basis of should proceed. While strong a comprehensive deal Seoul's North Korea's sincerity, a rough consensus argued in favor of package of proposals that address not only Washington's concerns but also Pyongyang's.

This package should aim to eliminate the North's ballistic missile program, resolve any doubts about its nuclear weapons program, remove the threat to Seoul posed by the North's military deployed close to the demilitarized zone, especially its artillery, and institutionalize greater North-South dialogue

and economic engagement.

America should be prepared to extend formal diplomatic recognition to Pyongyang, end economic sanctions, support the North's application to join international financial institutions like the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, formalize a peace agreement to end the Korean War, and increase humanitarian assistance.

Washington should start talks with Pyongyang on confidence-building measures regarding troop deployments on the peninsula.

The Clinton administration should make Congress its part-

proach closely with Seoul. Tokyo and Beijing as it moves forward with Pyongyang. South Korea will solidly **6**: ***.

ident Kim has consistently adreassure Clinton administration critics who are reluctant to see the United States sit down and

negotiate with Pyongyang. Bargaining with the North is never easy, and this agenda will be especially difficult. Washington can expect hard bargaining, with Pyongyang trying to hedge its bets, drag out the talks and keep all options open.

Delay is not in Washington's interest, nor in the interest of peace and security in Northeast Asia. The United States has clear diplomatic, economic and military superiority over North Korea. After testing the North's willingness to forge a new and more stable relationship with the outside world, the United States must be prepared to take 'no'' for an answer and walk

away from the table. Both sides have much to gain by reaching a comprehensive agreement. The North has much more to lose if the current stalemate and suspicion continue.

Mr. Gregg is president of the Korea Society and a former U.S. ambassador to South Korea. Mr. Reiss is senior policy advisor at the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Or-ganization. They contributed this comment to the International Herald Tribune.

nounced that Rwandan and Despite support from the them no less than to the Tutsi. -THE NEW YORK TIMES Ugandan forces had killed 15 Hutu militiamen. With the ta-West, Mr. Museveni is facing American support is not IN OUR PAGES: 100, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO cit approval of the United States and Britain, Mr.

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By Makau Mutua

Stop Backing African Dictators

setts — The recent massacre of eight Western tourists in Uganda was a horrible has become the policeman for event, but the response of the Ugandan and Rwandan gov-American interests in East and Central Africa. The United emments has been just as States has extolled him as a chilling. Uganda's president, model leader. Yoweri Museveni, who came to power in a coup in 1986. vowed to kill the suspects on

Mr. Kagame and his minority Tutsi government owe their power to Mr. Museveni. Now the United States is assisting their campaign to overthrow another despot, President Laurent Kabila of Congo.

a long-standing insurgency at home, and Mr. Kagame rules a country that is more than 80 percent Hutu. It is only a matter of time before the Hutu, many of whom fled to Congo after the mass Hutu killings of Tutsi and moderate Hutu in 1994, recapture power in Rwanda --- unless a democratic power-sharing arrangement can be worked out between the Hutu and the Tutsi. In the past couple of years, Hutu rebels have overrun prisons and other government installations in

several parts of Rwanda. But Mr. Museveni and Mr. Kagame want the West to believe that they can exert effective control in the region and that Western aid should Uganda and Paul Kagame, the be increased.

Mr. Museveni's message to the suspected killers seems clear: For every white tourist's life taken, his government will take dozens of Hutu World Bank and the IMF are lives. But his crackdown, far trying to make a success story. from pacifying the region, can The New York Times.

only lead to more violence. Mr. Museveni is not the only one responsible for the current crisis. Tour operators and the Western countries should not have allowed tourists to travel to the vortex of the Central African conflict. Just imagine tourists traveling to Kosovo today, or to Bosnia during its civil war.

In Rwanda, we cannot ignote that the Hutu make up the vast majority of people, and that the country belongs to enough to re-establish exclusive Tutsi rule. And revenge executions of Hutu suspects are no answer, either.

The killers of the tourists should be apprehended and tried in Ugandan courts. The United States cannot, by its acquiescence, appear to tolerate violations of human rights by the Rwandan and Ugandan governments even as it calls on China and other countries to respect them.

In the long term, the United States should support Africanled efforts for a settlement between Mr. Kabila and the predominantly Tutsi rebels, along with the withdrawal of all Ugandan and Rwandan troops from Congo. Only a multinational peacekeeping force can secure the borders of all three countries.

The writer, a visiting professor at Harvard Law School, contributed this comment to

ner in this policy and in ne-gotiations with the North. Washington will likely find support if it coordinates its ap-

1899: Jealous Norway CHRISTIANIA — The Crown-Prince will not allow the Nor-

wegians any "independence." He has decided that Sweden and Norway will send only one representative to the peace congress. This representative will probably be a Swede and act on behalf of "His Majesty's Govemment." contrary to the old custom of using the title "the King of Sweden and Norway." These trifles are causing a great deal of unpleasantness among the Norwegians, who are jealous

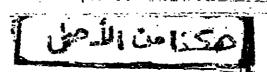
of anything that is Swedish. 1924: Door to Thibet

PARIS - [The Herald says in en Editorial: Among the remarkable events of this age none is more so than the incipient change which has declared itself and a British engineer got so far

as Lhasa, the "forbidden city," and there had an interview with the Dalai Lama. A telegraph line connecting Lhasa with India is in course of construction, and a moving picture man has taken into the country films representing the life of the outer world.

1949: Phonetic English LONDON - Dr. Mont Foi-

lick's bill to scrap the present English language and introduce phonetic spelling nearly got through the House of Commons. This streamlined alphabet would make it unnecessary for children at school ever to waste time on dictation. spelling or even reading," Dr. Follick asserted. Sir Alan Herbert said: "This scheme contains o's with dots over them and squiggles through them and e's written upside down. A page in Thibet. Several explorers of this print would look like a!" have penetrated to its interior very old cheese under a very powerful microscope."



حكذامت الأحوا

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OPINION/LETTERS

Religious Conservatives Need a Nonpolitical Voice

By E.J. Dionne Jr.

WASHINGTON — It is hard to notice historic turnings at there really were a moral majority the moment they happen. But sometimes the signs of the times appear in bold neon letters. That is the way to look at a recent declaration by the conservative leader
Paul Weyrich that "politics has
failed" and moral conservatives should separate themselves "from this hostile culture" and engage in

some sort of quarantine. Mr. Weyrich made his position public in an open letter to his supporters last month and elaborated on it in an opinion piece in The Washington Post on Sunday. Mr. Weyrich is so gloomy about America's national culture that it may be tempting to write him off as a cranky doom-salesman nearing the end of his political career.

But that would be a mistake, because his new anti-political posture has historical precedent.

What Mr. Weyrich is proposing is the same form of political withdrawal in which conservative evangelical Christians engaged after their defeats in the 1920s. These included the failure of Prohibition and the Scopes trial on the teaching of evolution. During the Scopes battle, fundamentalist ideas were held up to national scorn.

Withdrawing from politics did not mean that the fundamentalists and evangelicals went away. On the contrary, they built their own vibrant counterculture in the churches, on the radio, in books and magazines, and in local communities. When the evangelist Billy Graham brought the old religion to broad public attention again in the 1950s, he did not so much light a fire as reveal the power of a blaze that had long

been burning.
But Mr. Graham's religion was
public without being overtly political. So when Mr. Weyrich, the Reverend Jerry Falwell and their allies led conservative evangelicals back into politics in the 1970s and early 1980s — largely in response to court decisions on issues such as abortion and school prayer — they were breaking with of religion's voice. a four-decade-long pattern. What if Mr. Weyrich's Mr. Weyrich suggests now is that cultural conservatives revert to their pre-Moral Majority strategy, "bypassing the institutions that are controlled by the enemy."

Mr. Weyrich roots his current disillusionment in the failure to

•

there really were a moral majority out there," he mourned, "Bill Clinton would have been driven

out of office months ago."
In his Washington Post article, Mr. Weyrich was careful to insist that he was not proposing a complete disengagement from politics.
"What we are changing is what we expect from politics and, therefore, what we put into it," he wrote.
"The object is to prevent government from taking certain actions, actions designed to destroy freedom and impose ideology."

Here, too, is a parallel to the

post-1920s era. Evangelicals and fundamentalists continued to vote and exert influence, especially locally. But they did not form political pressure groups such as the Moral Majority or the Christian Coalition.

In fact, Mr. Weyrich and his allies are misreading the result of the Clinton battle. Most Americans who opposed removing Mr. Clinton from office did so not because they approved of his behavior but because they saw the national cost of throwing him out as too high and preferred a lesser punishment.

At the same time, virtually every poll and social indicator shows Americans moving toward moderation if not conservatism on a range of moral issues. Where Mr. Weyrich sees cultural collapse and the dominance of "an alien ideology," most Americans continue to hold rather old-fashioned notions of right and wrong, family life and child rearing.

Still, there is much to be said for Mr. Weyrich's new approach to politics insofar as it could contribute to a disentangling of religion from partisan political

Religion should have a public voice, and religious people should not be marginalized. But to the extent that Mr. Weyrich and some of his allies tied faith to the success of one party and one ideological movement, they reduced rather than increased the reach

If Mr. Weyrich's new strategy makes religious conservatives less an interest group and more a leaven in America's national life, he may discover that the culture is less hostile to their values than he thinks.

The Washington Post



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Israel and Lebanon

Regarding "Getting Out of Lebanon" (Editorial, March 9): If, after Israel's unilateral withdrawal, "anyone resumed rocket attacks on Israel's northern villages, of course, the Israelis would have a right to protect their people." How? By inflicting heavy strikes on Syrian military installations in Lebanon, since Syria is the prime enabler of attacks against Israel's northern

These blows would have to be heavy enough to discourage further attacks. Otherwise, Israel's unilateral withdrawal would merely expand the present limited

JOSEPH LERNER.

Regarding "The Right Way for Israel to Leave Lebanon" (Opinion, March 3) by Judith Kipper: Perhaps the writer has shed

some light in reminding readers that Hezbollah as a militia did not exist prior to Israel's invasion of Lebanon in 1982. In effect, the militia came into being when Israel violated UN Security Council Resolution 509, which deman-

from Lebanon "forthwith and unconditionally" nearly two MOHAMED IL ALWAN,

Germany's Morality

ded the withdrawal of its forces

Regarding "From Past to Future in Germany" (Opinion, Feb. 22) by Tina Rosenberg: The writer asserts that "the

Third Reich's crimes were invisible in German schools." This is simply not true.

I was born in 1935 and attended school in Berlin-Neukölln, then a district in the American sector of Berlin. U.S. "cultural officers" were responsible for our school

programs, and we were taught in detail about the crimes of the Third Reich. This included being shown shocking photographs of concentration camps.

Our generation is very well aware of Germany's World War II history and ashamed of those unforgivable crimes.

CLAUDIA RABE. Hennigsdorf, Germany.

Regarding Execution Angers Germany; Cries of 'Barbarism' Over Gas Chamber Death in U.S." (March 5):

Surely the new millennium has arrived when German officials find American jurisprudence "deeply worrying" with regard to the morality of executing a convicted murderer. Though I am not a proponent of the death penalty, I find it interesting to see just how far the pendulum has swung in Germany in the past 60 years.

J. ROGERS.

'White' America Becomes A Family of Many Colors

By William Raspberry

river stretching back as far as the mind can remember and as far forward as it can imagine.

But the salient feature of this river — the thing we like to boast about - is its ability to take in (through marriage, through adoption, even by "acclamation") a huge variety of streams

MEANWHILE

and rivulets while keeping its own lovely essence.

We are generous about this process, the reunion speaker said. We believe that every new drop of water that enters the river is transformed by it, and that is good. But we believe that the process also changes the river, leaving it deeper and stronger and

livelier. That is good, too. We can (and usually do at our reunions) talk for some time about the peculiar culture of that river we call family: its core beliefs and attitudes, reinforced by family fables; its values with the power to improve those who come under its influence: the gentle but firm limits it sets on what is acceptable behavior, and perhaps most of all its willingness to share the benefits of this culture with all who would join.

I was talking about this to a class on race the other day when this unsettling thought occurred: In what way is my family's pride of kinship different from white America's pride of race?

Doesn't each proceed from a quiet confidence that it has found the right path to success, happiness and worthwhileness? Don't both believe that only good things can come from adopting our cul-ture? Aren't both saddened by those who reject the values whose validity we take for granted?

There are, of course, white racists who think no nonwhite could ever measure up to white standards, but those are at least as rare as the family members who would try to bar certain newcomers as unworthy to be kin.

Mostly, though, white Americans share the view so deeply held by my family: that its key values its beliefs if not always its practices - "work." And white America seems about as willing as

WASHINGTON — My fam-ily, someone said at a recent embrace its values. I know that we reunion, likes to think of itself as a nonwhites tell ourselves that is not so, but what else can it mean when white folk tell us with such earnestness what peace and neighborliness we could enjoy "if they were all like you''?

How arrogant that sounds. It seems, as Jeff Hitchcock and Charley Flint have written, to make whiteness the measure of all things good. In a paper they wrote for the Center for the Study of White American Culture, they argue that the American culture is, regrettably, the white American male culture. Whiteness is so much at the center of things that white people do not even recognize it. What nonwhites see as whiteness, whites see as merely normal.

Mr. Hitchcock (a white man) and Ms. Flint (a black woman) argue for deliberate efforts to create a truly multiracial, multicul-tural society in America by "decentering whiteness.

Theirs is not the only interesting view of the matter. Eric Liu, in his book "The Accidental Asian." wrestles with his own whiteness.'

"I never asked to be white," he wrote. "I am not literally white. That is, I do not have white skin or white ancestors. I have yellow skin and yellow ancestors, hundreds of generations of them. But like so many other Asian-Americans of the second generation, I find myself the bearer of a strange new

status: white by acclamation."
Mr. Liu, a 30-ish former speechwriter for President Bill Clinton, has, in short, been "assimilated," a concept that many nonwhites find repugnant because it seems to entail the necessity of giving up one's own culture and accepting the superiority of the dominant American (white) culture.

Probably most African- and Asian-Americans would be saddened (if not angered) by Mr. Liu's self-revealed transformation to "white."

And yet, isn't there something to be said about his apparent acceptance into, and success in, the American mainstream?

And to repeat: How different is what he has done from what my own family has taken as a matter of common sense leavened with generosity?

The Washington Post.

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By Patricia Beeson

INDELO, Sao Vicente -stop for ships traveling between the North and South Atlantic, the Cape Verde archipelago is little known to most tourists.

About 565 kilometers (350 miles) off the coast of Senegal in the Atlantic Ocean, the republic's nine inhabited volcanic islands vary from flat and sandy to towering and craggy to lushly semitropical, or all three.

The Portuguese, arriving on the empty islands around 1460, made them a trading center for African goods and slaves brought from the mainland. There was extensive intermarriage, resulting in an African-Portuguese culture; Portuguese is still the official language nearly 24 years after independence, though Crioulo, a Portuguese-African mix, is the vernacular.

My husband, John, lived in what is now the Republic of Cape Verde until he was sent to school in England at age 8. A little more than a year ago, we returned for a weeklong visit to his childhood haunts in Mindelo, on the island of Sao Vicente. Once one of the world's busiest ports, Mindelo was largely run by the British until the 1950s, when the community

departed as shipping declined.
An earlier English visitor, Sir Francis
Drake, attacked the largest island, Sao Tiago, in 1585. Another, Charles Darwin, made an intensive study of the islands' flora and fauna.

Cape Verde is still for the adventurous. As tourism is relatively new and on some islands barely exists, comfort levels can vary widely. So visitors should leave Western standards at home, along with high heels (most roads are flat cobblestones), and, in less developed areas, expectations of hot water and modern plumbing.

Surprises may result from the vagar-ies of TACV, the national airline, which constantly changes schedules. But "it's a lot better than it was," said Veronica Carvalho Martins, a Cape Verdian who

trade winds, which usually blow steadily from the northeast, grow stronger, causing delays. Usually they temper heat and Once a major refueling afford idyllic weather, but from January through March, they are augmented by the harmattan winds off the Sahara, creating hazy conditions.

Peter Swavely, deputy chief of mission at the U.S. Embassy, considers September and October, the end of the rainy season, the prettiest time. "The desert transforms to green," he said.

But too often there's not enough rain, resulting in crop failure and hardship. Cyclical drought in the Cape Verdes is a fact of life, and in the past, it meant death, inspiring large-scale emigration, particularly in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Though the cities of Mindelo and Praia are growing (and with them, a small middle class employed in the govemment and in the air traffic and maritime services), more than half the population is still rural and desperately poor. Lack of water and arable land limits farming. Fishing employs around 8,500 people, and tourism is developing. Foreign business people, mostly Europeans, may be seen in the principal hotels and restaurants in the cities.

GARDEN AND MARKET

Prais, a small city of 80,000 on the island of Sao Tiago, is a strange, uncohesive place, a mostly new government town, full of half-built, duncolored houses. The most interesting section is the main downtown area, called the Plato (plateau), high above the north end of the harbor. In 1832, Darwin noted the wide square overlooked by an unremarkable cathedral, which still stands today. Here, also, are the Palacio da Republica and its handsome garden. and the market to which women from the countryside bring live chickens and spices, cheeses, dried fish and oranges.

The Praia-Mar, the hotel where we stayed in the affluent area of Prainha, is pleasantly situated on a low cliff by the sea, with a huge seawater pool. Pebbled

is also occasionally vulnerable when the precious commodity. Praia and Mindelo obtain much of their supply by desalinating seawater, but imported oil powers the process, making it exceptionally costly.

We started our explorations by driving two hours on a winding road to Tarrafal, at the island's north end. You can go by minibus or taxi, as we did, via the dramatic central spine of the island, returning by the flatter east coast road. We had decided to rent a beach bungalow for two nights. "Watch out for the monkeys," warned Veronica, not altogether joking.

Initially the road ran through mostly flat terrain, greened by some of the millions of acacias being planted every year to stabilize the soil in desert areas and hillsides. After the village of Ribeirao Chiqueiro, the road began to rise and wind through towering, jagged crags and plunging valleys cloaked in corn and sugar cane. The greenness made it almost incomprehensible that the corn crop was failing from lack of water.

Somewhat scruffy little villages, often

exploding with purple and scarlet bou-gainvillea, brimmed with friendly families, pigs and chickens. Tarrafal, a fishing village in awkward transition to a resort, is rather marred by half-built vacation homes. A handsome beach runs north from the village, below a cliff. Steps lead down to the stone bungalows where we stayed, called the Baia Verde, in a palm grove edging the beach.

And there were the monkeys, with graceful long tails and preoccupied faces, playing between the palms.

The attractive Hotel Tarrafal, which opened 18 months ago near the town's old stone jetty, has an almost clinically white decor and a pleasing dining room. It is patronized by foreigners and wellheeled Praians. You can also eat at its polar opposite, owned by the Baia Verde, a modest, thatched restaurant, which is noisy, fun, and crowded on weekend evenings.

In general the food, which is European-influenced, tends to be somewhat bland, except for some of the local dishes such as goat stew and roast kid. Cape Verdian lager is excellent, and fish



Santo Antao, a rough, hourlong ferry ride from Mindelo, is a paradise for hikers.

resembles cassouler, made with com, A fine view of it can be had from the beans and various meats. It's tasty and empty prison on top of Miradoura Hill. filling at breakfast too, served with fried A road runs near the water, past the fish eggs and ham.

BARE VOLCANIC ISLE Our next port of call was Sao Vicente, John's island. This bare volcanic isle, its hills flaunting uncanny hues of burnt sienna, ocher, terra cotta and sage, shadowed in navy blue, has a beauty all its own. The air strip where our half-hour TACV flight landed between two barren ranges could have been in the Middle East. But as we drove into Mindelo, population 50,000, we saw groves of acacia flanking the road. The bay, with its twin headlands, yachts, an English country town. ships and oil storage tanks, opened up ahead of us.

Unlike Praia, Mindelo, hub of Cape is the commercial assistant at the U.S. paths link the blocks of rooms dispersed is superb. Pineapple and pudim (crème Verdian intellectual and cultural life, is around its lush garden. Fresh water is a caramel), are popular desserts. Cachupa fairly compact and feels like a real town.

market and the bold silhouette of a scaled-down 1920s version of Lisbon's medieval tower, the Belem. Halfway along it passes the French Cultural Center with its wrought-iron balconies.

From the esplanade, a wide street leads to the central square, where we saw the magical 19th-century Pink Palace, once the Portuguese governor's residence but now Sao Vicente's council offices. And behind it, John recognized his old home, a simple Georgian-style house, which might have strayed from

Our hotel, the Aparthotel Avenida, had lots of somewhat depressing mahogany-stained wood and a gloomy goldfish circling an aquarium on the long stairway up to our room. But it was central, with a

view of the esplanade and harbor, and cheaper than the nearby large, newly renovated Porto Grande Hotel.

Santo Antao, an island that is a rough, hourlong ferry ride from Mindelo, is a paradise for hikers. The truly fit, armed with good directions, can be dropped off by minibus on top of the mountain, to walk down the Paul River valley via Passagem, to the coastal village of Paul, one of the loveliest trails. Or you can go up to Passagem by minibus. Tropical fruits grow thickly along the valley; butterflies flutter around wild gardenias, and there's scarcely a tourist in sight.

As yet, polishing is needed before the islands will draw the less resolute tourist. For now, these rough diamonds remain a largely undiscovered treasure.

Patricia Beeson, a writer in Toronto, wтоге this for The New York Times.

Mr.

bear.

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Tourism vs. Preservation at Amazing Angkor

Rewards and Risks Of Seeing a Wonder

By Mia Turner

IEM REAP, Cambodia -When he first saw the temple of Angkor Wat rising out of the French explorer Henri Mouhot was transfixed. 'Ah, if only I was as talented with the pen of a Chateaubriand or a Lamartine, "Mouhot wrote in 1868, "or with the paintbrush of a Claude Lorrain, then I could make known to my artistic friends how grand and beautiful are these incomparable ruins, the only remains of a people who are no more."

The magic of the 259 temples on a 40-square-kilometer (15-square-mile) wooded area around the northern town of Siem Reap holds a visitor in thrall. And thanks to the return of peace to this war-battered land, more people than ever can now experience it. Siem Reap has more visitors coming now than at almost any time in nearly 30 years.

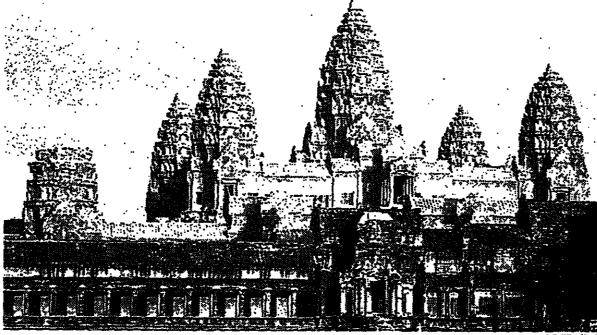
For the first time since the 1970s, hotels and guest houses here boasted 100-percent occupancy rates during last month's Chinese New Year, a traditional time for travel in Asia. The 18room French-designed Angkor Village was fully booked weeks in advance. The luxurious 131-room colonial-era Grand Hotel has been charging more than \$310 a night and getting it.

The explosive influx of tourists to Siem Reap is a change few could have foreseen last summer when Cambodia's fragile stability seemed yet again on the brink of collapse. Critics of Cambodia's elections on July 26 accused the government of electoral fraud. In August unidentified assailants threw a grenade outside the Interior Ministry in Phnom Penh, killing the Cambodian driver of a Japanese news agency.

But after establishing his government in November, Prime Minister Hun Sen has managed to make peace less illusory. He is gaining ground as he wins support internationally and domestically. "People are tired of the war. They want peace in order to get on with their lives," said a Western aid worker in Phnom Penh. "Finally there is a government with one person in charge and finally they can think of reconstruction."

MYSTICAL MONUMENTS Those who visit Angkor are rewarded with breathtaking tours of monuments as mystical and extraordinary as the ancient Mayan city of Chichen Itza in Yucatan, Mexico, or the Incan remains of Machu Picchu in the Peruvian Andes. But like Peru, Cambodia has had its share of bad press — deservedly, some would say. The most recent guidebooks on the country do not inspire confidence.

Warnings about land mines, kidnappings, robberies and political instability share space with hotel listings, restaurant reviews and other travel advice. Indeed, the remains of war, including the millions of land mines, are real enough dangers, as the numbers of damaged people show. Travelers must contend with the uncomfortable feeling that they are taking a risk. Rising and falling tourist figures are a barometer of



The main temple of Angkor Wat rising out of the jungle at Siem Reap. Peace has ushered in the tourists.

political instability. The number of visitors plunged by 43 percent in 1997, when the country was shaken by Hun Sen's coup against his co-prime minister, compared with a phenomenal 231 percent rise in 1994 - in the aftermath of the signing of the 1991 Paris Peace Agreement and the arrival of UN sol-

diers to help implement it. The death in 1998 of the Khmer Rouge leader Pol Pot, the surrender last December of his two leading deputies. Khieu Samphan and Nuon Chea, and the establishment of the current government have helped to put Cambodia, and in particular Angkor, back on the tourist map. In November, 2,094 visitors arrived in Siem Reap, double the

number from the same period a year earlier. The boom is fueled by an agreement with Thailand that allows direct daily flights to Siem Reap

from Bangkok, Yet the anticipation of more tourists has given rise to concerns about preservation. While most of the temples have gatekeepers and some even have "no touch" signs. most tourists ignore them. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Or-

ganization has presented a "zoning and environmental management plan" to the government that stresses the importance of "controlled tourism." They have yet to see a response. "We think there are more relics underground, so we are encouraging the government to make sure that no hotels go up near the

Rithy, administrative assistant for Un- Rup, a 10th-century temple, from fallesco's Siem Reap office. "Unesco has ing down. Gallinaro said the removal of no power to protect these areas. This is jungle growth has created a danger that the power of the royal government."

But Unesco is not the only one worried. Foreign governments are giving generous support to preserving this piece of the world's heritage. In 1994, for instance, Japan began a four-year project to restore the Northern Library of the Bayon temple.

Since 1995 members of the University of Applied Sciences in Cologne. Germany, have been working on preserving 1.850 bas-reliefs in the Angkor

he said. Monuments to religion like Angkor Wat temple, Italy has sent structural Wat had no place in the Khmer engineers, like Vittorio Gallinaro, to Rouge's ideology. "The temples were find ways to prevent the towers of Pre not destroyed, but they were not rethis historic site reportedly found their way into the hands of



temple areas," said Sam A bas-relief on a temple exterior.

the uncooked bricks will crumble.

OR Chan Sok Thoun the preservation of Angkor Wat is more than an issue of heritage. As one of more than 300 tour guides, it is his livelihood. But it was also his playground as a child. "During the Khmer Rouge period few tourists came and the temple's corridors were ours to play

stored either," Chan says. Instead, during the Khmer Rouge period (1975-1979) relics from

overseas buyers.

After a previous peace accord signed in Paris in 1991. Cambodia's King Sihanouk made the preservation of these magnificent temples a priority, and in late 1992 Unesco declared the Angkor monuments a World Heritage site. Today Chan has turned his familiarity with them into a profession. Trained by Unesco, Chan leads his visitors through the 15 sites now open to the public, recounting the tales of Khmer kings

Mia Turner works for magazine in Time

who once ruled this

stone citadel.

GUIDE MOVIE



Joel D. Warren/Columbia ToSar From left, Benz. Gayheart and McGowan in "Jawbreaker."

Directed by Darren Stein. U.S. In Darren Stein's "Jawbreaker," the nasties are back. I refer to those high-school princesses whose stiletto heels have trod on the sensibilities of all geeks, freaks and lowlifes in such comedy-horror flicks as "Carrie," "Heathers," "Chueless" and "Wild Things." But, in "Jawbreaker" at least, the hissable beauties seem to have lost their girl power. Stein, who grew up on the back-stabbing fantasies of John Hughes. Wes Craven and Brian DePalma over the last 20 years, creates four (or five) fearsome princesses, who terrorize their fellow students with all the familiar tics and tricks, but he brings nothing new to the table. Meet "the Flawless Four," Reagan High School's hottest, most exclusive girl group's nasty leader, her slavish followers are Marcie Fox or "Foxy" (Julie Benz), Courney's inexhaustible suckup; Julie (Rebecca Gayheart), who's unfortunately burdened with a conscience, and Liz (Charlotte Roldan), the nicest member of all who gets the worst birthday surprise of her life. On the morning she turns 17, Liz is awakened by masked intruders (her three friends in disguise) who truss her, shove a jawbreaker into her mouth, gag her and toss her into the trunk of their car. But when they pull up to the restaurant, where they plan to treat Liz to birthday pancakes, they find the group has dwinstiff, Courtney takes charge. They return rape scene. But Fern Mayo (Judy Evans Greer), a school geek, arrives in the wrong place at the wrong time and Courtney has a witness problem. Why sit through a lesser imitation, when you could just rent those other movies for a far more enjoyable time? (Desson Howe, WP)

La Hora de los Valientes

Directed by Antonio Mercero. Spain. Antonio Mercero, 63, has spent much of the past eight years working on a successful Spanish television sitcom, but he returns as a big-screen director with a fresh look at the oft-used theme of Spain's Civil War. "La Hora de los Valientes" (The Hour of the Brave) is a phrase the besieged Republicans used to rally their faithful against Francisco Franco's troops, and the film makes a hero out of a portrait, inadvertently forgotten when the avoid Franco's bombing. Gabino Diego. makes it lively while it lasts and empty

quite well here with the more complex character of the monitor, a sometime bumbler forced to rise to the danger around him. He is ably guided in the plot by his crafty and hilarious anarchistic grandfather (Luis Cuenca). The monitor's youngish aunt (Adriana Ozores), who runs a boarding house where much of the action transpires, delivers an impressive performance as a strong woman who faces adversity. Her role helps the director capture the complexity of human emotions during war -- terror, guarded humor, hope against hope. The protectors of the Goya portrait, including the monitor's hard-luck girlfriend (Leonor Watling), must outwit Franco loyalists who are sowing discord in Madrid. They make repeated references to Goya and his clique. Courtney (Rose McGowan) is the majestic canvases that depicted the horrors of war. But the film, which has an engrossing rhythm and richness, stubs its toe at the finale, which stretches credibility and is not quite a match for the earlier sections. (Al Goodman, JHT)

> LOCK, STOCK AND TWO SMOKING BARRELS

Directed by Guy Ritchie. U.K.
Guy Ritchie's brash, ebullient direction of his first feature, "Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels." makes it very obvious that he honed his style making music videos and commercials. And for once that doesn't hurt. The punchy little dled to three. It seems poor Liz didn't flourishes that load this gangster film chew before she swallowed. Stuck with a with attitude are perfectly welcome, bewith attitude are perfectly welcome, because there's no honest, substantial part Liz to her bedroom, intending to stage a of the movie they can hurt. Ritchie makes a fine feat of macho gamesmanship out of the way four sets of East End London crooks keep outsmarting one another. And if that means having them all arm for battle while the "Zorba the Greek" theme music heightens the intensity of the moment, well, why not? Touches like that, along with flashy, random shifts of film speed and a true rogues' gallery of striking if one-note characters, do hold interest. The commercial aspects also deflect attention from the fact that this story has almost no center at all. The closest it comes to heroes are the four savvy young con men whom the film introduces first. Ritchie brings on Eddie (Nick Moran), Tom (Jason Flemying). Bacon (Jason Statham) and Soap (Dexter Fletcher) as if they were the "Trainspotting" crew, but the story soon begins fictional humble monitor at the Prado to lose them in the shuffle. With a big Museum. He tries to save a Goya self- debt to "The Usual Suspects" and "Reservoir Dogs," Ritchie revels in the museum's art is humledly evacuated to sheer knottiness of all the scheming. He who often plays pure comic roles, does when it's over. (Janet Maslin, NYT)

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MY PILGRIM'S PROGRESS Media Studies, 1950-1998

秦.

By George W.S. Traw. 279 pages.

STRAWBERRY HILL

RESORT

\$24. Pantheon. Reviewed by Richard Bernstein

interesting on every page and something brilliant on many of them.

In "My Pilgrim's Progress," Trow, who was a staff writer at The New Yorker for almost 30 years, continues his jazzy, epigrammatic love-hate relationship with the contemporary culture.

The main idea, largely developed by Trow's examination of "Mainstream American Cultural Artifacts." is that the protective solidity of the American culture that existed at mid-century has vanished, even if we do not realize just how complete the disappearance was. He meanders through the cultural and political landscape, making penetrat-ing, knowledgeable and entertaining observations and evoking a stark cleavage in the culture that began forming around his chosen baseline date of 1950.

Trow uses many ways to describe what came after the cleavage: "our nawhat came after the creavage: our national culture of irony and anger," the aesthetic dominance of an "unreal, speeded-up violence," "a desperate, dissolving situation," a rock "n" roll culture whose triumph over the old aesthetic dominance of the complete the comp thetic was so complete that "it obliterated any real sense of the context to

Cultural Artifacts." And it has something to do with television, that new David Letterman show, whose stock in thing that lurked almost invisibly in the trade is irony. (Trow calls it irony, though

shadows of 1950 and grew into a vic-derision might be a better word.) torious monster.

way as much a "Mainstream American If derision (or irony) is a sensibility of the Cultural Artifact" as the movies, books age, where does it come from? Trow and musical productions that he ana- finds its origins in the very cultural dislyzes so acutely. It, too, marks a cultural HE FIRST thing to note about cleavage, between the studied informal-George W.S. Trow's new book is ity of the second half of the century and that, as with his best-known previous the formal discourse of the rest of litwork, the cult classic "Within the Context of No Context," there is something with this," Trow writes as he makes a transition from one point to another. "Not quite free-associate; my mind doesn't work that way. I just trust the circularity of it. Let's start anyway: The Beatles, 1965.

The transition Trow makes at that point is between the demise of the Churchillian aesthetic of the 1950s and the appearance of "Dionysian avatars" like the Beatles' tragic hero, John Len-

As always the argument is rich and suggestive, like many others in this book. Indeed, the temptation in reviewing "My Pilgrim's Progress" is to list a few of Trow's many interesting points. For example, he attributes the increase in violence in the movies to an underlying and ever increasing commercial need for what he calls a "hyperactive quality" that is most easily satisfied in violence and car chases. He then adds a brief history of movie car chases, beginning with Steve McQueen's in "Bullitt"

Or there is his wonderfully despairing vision of television production in which a straight line can be drawn from "Howdy Doody" (the "sub-basement of a Shirley Temple movie") and the "awarewhich it was juxtaposed."

In any case, you get the picture: What has happened is not good, though it is very interesting. It can be observed in numerous "Mainstream American College Artifacts" And it has someother cultural products, specifically the ing this original, provocative and pos-

But there is a deeper, connecting point

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Continental breakfast, airport transfers from Kingston, tax and service, use

of spa facilities, guided walks and bicycles. Until Dec. 15. (1-305)

junction that is his main subject. We have, he writes, repudiated "the Old World of masculine honor" that was and less starvation. Pampered as we are, unacquainted with a "moment of true physical exhaustion after a day of work in the mines," we "were going to have to grow up to be entirely ironic in our visceral reactions to our own manhood.'

Elsewhere, Trow studies the career of Faye Emerson, the subject of a lengthy profile in The New York Times of 1950, when headlines were about the national coal strike, Churchill's memoirs of World War II and the hydrogen bomb. Emerson enters the picture as "our first personality known for being a personality." She represents in this sense the disjunction between the old world of 1950, grounded in the bitter fights against the Nazis and the Depression, and the lightweight world of television in which neither historical nor cultural contexts exist. Trow's comment on this is a marvel of sardonic clarity: "My overview of the civilization as presented in The New York Times of Feb. 1, 1950," he writes, is that in World War II, the Germans lost, and Faye Emerson won."

As he slices transgressively through the decades, Trow gives himself away. He is an old-fashioned curmudgeon who writes with hip, new-fashioned flair. His tour of the media and the politics of the last half century is solidly grounded in a moral tradition that we are in danger of losing, which is reason enough for lingering and contemplatsibly prophetic book.

New York Times Service

High-Tech Hotels of the Future

By Roger Collis International Herald Tribune

ACK in my corporate days (and I go back a long way), you could expect a quiet, spacious room and a comfortable bed with a telephone on the night-table, a radio with local news, an armchair, a shaving mirror, a shower that worked, and a wardrobe with wooden coat hangers that you were tempted to walk away with.

High-tech meant a telex in reception (remember the telex?) and a gizmo I recall called "Magic Fingers." Put a quarter in the slot and the bed would vibrate for 15 minutes, saving you counting sheep. You had to go through the operator for long-distance calls There's a two-hour delay for Madrid"), so the office was safely out of touch and you'd be left to worry in peace.

Slow dissolve (via multichannel satel-lite TV, mini-bars, hair dryers, power showers, bathroom phones, back-lighted mirrors and in-room tea- and coffee-making facilities) to the millennium. Road warriors today are driven by communications technology — the need to be totally wired at all times, which both facilitates and requires higher productivity. The hotel room has become a "command center" from which one manages business with customers and the office as though one were in the office. Travelers want to be independent, in control, not dependent on hotel services; they want to do it all in their room, around the clock.

Hotels have responded. Hyatt came up in 1997 with its Business Plan at 90 hotels in the United States and Canada. For an extra \$20 a day on any room rate, guests get a raft of benefits including a large desk, fax machine, desk telephone with computer hook-up, enhanced lighting, free local calls and no access charges on toll-free and credit card phone calls.

"We've found that almost two-thirds of business travelers in America use laptops on the road," says Norm Can- card. field of Hyatt Hotels in Chicago. "So

want to be productive. with data ports. But the biggest thing is the Internet, and where does that go? We're testing systems for getting people connected — especially with high-speed data links. There's an interactive cable vehicle through the television set, which has a lot of potential because the band width is huge, but the industry hasn't yet evolved to the point where you can exploit this - it's like having a 50-lane highway and a half-lane exit ramp." Alistair Forbes, business development

director of Quadriga, a provider of in-A slew of gizmos for plugged-in travelers.

teractive hotel-room technology, in London, says: "The television is the center of the communications highway for the hotel guest. You don't need a laptop to access the Internet or deal with your email. It's all done through a remotecontrol key-pad. The technology is in the down and ask. We did quite an amusing hotel basement using co-axial cabling for the signaling. But it all goes through the TV. The typical road-warrior — the middle manager in the four-star hotel will probably still bring his laptop. The senior executive is going to see it as an opportunity to not take his laptop.

Anywhere centers at 50 U.S. hotels. The Only 8 percent use the technology, comcenters provide a Pentium multimedia computer with zip drive, e-mail access and Web browsing through the Internet, a laser printer, a laptop print port, a copier, a fax machine and a 24-hour hotline. They come with multilingual touch-screen menus. You pay by credit

Hilton is testing an in-room PC syssomeone can print out what they're do-tem called PCC Powerdesk at three Lon- (33-4) 93-74-77-92.

ing in the room rather than going to the don properties - the Hilton Heathrow business center. People are looking for the Langham Hilton and the Hilton Park instant convenience, lack of hassles and Lane. PCC Powerdesk is a PC hidden the ability to be productive when they away in a wooden desk in the room. It comes with a fax/e-mail/Internet access, We already have two-line phones a laser printer (stashed in the bottom

drawer), scanner and CD sound system. Access to the Powerdesk is through a smart card, which you buy at reception. costing £15 (\$24) for an hour and £30 for up to four hours use. You can use the card at other hotels with Powerdesks. You can bring your own floppy disks or buy disks at the hotel. You also have access to Microsoft Office, the Internet, games and shopping, CDs from the hotel library and, via PCC Mall, market in-

formation, entertainment and sport. You can find Powerdesks at more than 30 Comfort, Clarion and Quality hotels in Norway and 15 in Sweden; the Stan-hope in Brussels; the Grand Hotel Duomo in Milan, and the Halcyon, the Howard and the Ritz in London.

Nigel Massey, a hotel consultant in London, balks at all this stuff. "There's a blind assumption in the hotel industry that everybody is into high-tech," he says, "so they stick all this kit in and what you actually do is alienate your guest when he can't figure out how to use the stuff and is too embarrassed to phone lifestyle survey at the Halkin in London, which has the last word in high-tech. among 150 males and female guests from Europe and the United States. Men see rooms as an extension of their office and use all the available facilities. But women see their rooms as places of Hilton Hotels has started Business relaxation rather than communication. pared with 39 percent of men.

"Hotels are in danger of introducing too much high-tech at the expense of the human-service element," he continues. "I'm fed up speaking to voice mail, I want to speak to a person. Does anybody speak English? Does anybody speak?'

Roger Collis can be reached by fax at

ARTS GUIDE

BRITAIN

Barbican Art Gallery, tel: (171) 638-8991, open daily. To March 28: "Africa by Africa: A Photographic View." Spanning the production of African photography since the 1920s, the display examines the role of studio photography and its insight into social Africa.

www.barbican.org.uk Royal Academy of Arts, tel: (171) 300-8000, open daily. Continu-ing/ To April 11: "Monet in the 20th Century." Features 80 paintings completed in the final decades of

www.royalacademy.org.uk open daily. To June 6: "Jackson Pollock." A retrospective of the works of the American artist (1912-1956). Dripping paint from a brush or stick held above the canvas. Pollock punctuated with spatters of color.

www.tate.org.uk CANADA

Art Gallery of Ontario, tel: (416) 977-0414, closed Mondays and Tuesdays. To April 18: "French Drawings From the Horvitz Col-lection." Covering the period from the late Renaissance through Neo-Classicism, the exhibition leatures 110 drawings by Boucher, Fragonard, Lorrain, Poussin and Watteau. Subjects range from landscapes and portraits to figure, genre and compositional studies.

www.ago.net

FRANCE

Centre Georges Pompidou, tel: 01- 44-78-12-33, closed Tues-days. Continuing/ To April 26: 'David Hockney: Espace/Paysage." Brings together approximate-by 50 paintings, photographs and installations exploring landscapes, a recent orientation in the work of

the British painter (born 1937). Fondation Dina Vierny-Mu Maillol, tel: 01-42-22-59-58, closed Tuesdays and holidays. To June 13: "Vieira da Silva." A se-lection of paintings and works often semiabstract architectural compositions — on paper covering 60 creative years by the Portuguese-born artist (1908-1992). Musee Picasso, tel: 01-42-71-25-21, closed Tuesdays. To May 3: "David Hockney: Dialogue With Pi-casso." Picasso's Influence on the

British artist (born 1937) is doc-umented by works whose source of inspiration was, among others, "The Old Guitar-Player." GERMANY

Deutsche Guggenheim, tel: (1) 20-20-93-13, open daily. To May 9: "Andreas Slominski." A site-speafic commission, the multi-component, sculptural installation by the German artist (born 1959) features an enomous, fully functioning bird

trap; a mechanism designed to transport a spoonful of cough syr-up: and a "stolen" bicycle pump. www.deutsche-guggenheim berlin.de

COLOGNE Wallraf-Richartz-Museum, tel: (221) 221-23-82, closed Mondays. To May 9: "Arent de Gelder, 1645-1727." The Dutch painter (1645-1727) was Rembrandt's apprentice for two years and his historical paintings derive their inspiration from the master's broad painting

Kunstmuseum, tel: (5361) 266-

90, closed Mondays. To June 6: "Avantgarderobe: Art and Fashion in the Twentieth Century." Demonstrates the flow of inspiration be-tween the two worlds through more than 250 works in painting, printmaking, fashlon design, photo-

JAPAN

National Museum of Modern Art. tel: (75) 761-4111, closed Mondays. Continuing/ To March 22: "Prints of Edvard Munch." Works by the Norwegian artist (1863-1944). With Expressionist intens-ity. Munch expressed people's colors and swirling lines.

Idemitsu Museum of Arts, tel: (6)

245-86-11, open daily. To March 22: "A Longing for Limpidity." More than 50 works by the Japanese painter (1777-1835). Tanomura developed a style inspired by the Interati paintings of the Ming and early Qing dynasties. .

Gotoh Museum, tel: (3) 3703-0062, closed Mondays. To March 28: "Penetrating Beauty." A selec-

tion of Japanese swords created by the craftsmen of the Edo period (1600-1868). Tokyo Fuji Art Museum, tel: (426) 91-4511. Continuing/ To April 18: "A 4000-Year Art Expedition: From

Ancient Egypt to Andy Warhol." Approximately 200 paintings. sculptures and photographs cov ering the Egyptian, Greek and Roman periods through the Renaissance to the 20th century.

NETHERLANDS

ROTTERDAM Kunsthal, tel: (10) 44-00-300, closed Mondays. To July 4: "Picasso: Artist of the Century." Cov-ers Picasso's entire career from the early "blue" and "pink" periods and Cubism to his later years in the

SWITZERLAND

Fondation de l'Hermitage, tel: (21) 320-50-01, closed Mondays. Continuing/To May 24: "L'Age d'Or



Sevdou Keita's work is part of a London show exploring photography in sub-Saharan Africa.

de l'Aquarette Anglaise, 1770-1901."

A survey of British watercolors and their interpretation of landscapes and still lifes, from Paul Sandby

CLEVELAND

Cleveland Museum of Art, tel:

To May 2: "Diego Rivera: Art and Revolution." More than 100 paint-(1731-1809) to Turner, Bonington

Fondation Pierre Gianadda, tel: (27) 722-3978, open daily. To June 6: "Tumer et Les Alpes." Works on paper created by the British painter (1775-1871) while he traveled through the French and Swiss Alps in 1802. www.gianadda.ch

National Palace Museum, tel: (2)

TALWAN

224-1333, open daily. To Merch 30: "A Special Exhibition of Printed Editions From the Sung Dynasty." White block printing, that began during the Tang Dynasty, peaked under the Sungs (960-1280), most printed volumes were destroyed in subsequent wars. The exhibition features some examples of the www.npm.gov.tw

UNITEDSTATES BALTIMORE

The Walters Art Gallery, tel: (410) 547-9000, open daily. To May 9: "Land of the Winged Horsemen: Art in Poland, 1572-1764." On loan from Polish museums, portraits, armor, costumes, objects in silver and gold from a land that was influenced by its position at the crossroads of tem and westem cultures. www.TheWalters.org

perial Sculptor, 1556-1626." Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam. March 14: "Asser: Pioneer of Dutch Photography." Rijksmu-March 14: "Richard Lindner." IVAM Centre Julio Gonzalez, Valencia, Spain.

Compiled by Elisabeth Hopkins

To May 2: "Diego Rivera: Art and Revolution." More than 100 paint-

ings and drawings that exemplify

Rivera's relationship to Symbolism, Cubism, Social Realism and

Surrealism. They also reflect the

way he merged the innovations of

European modernism with the tra-ditions of Mexico's pre-Columbian

past and its indigenous peoples.

CLOSING SOON

March 14: "Tibetan and Qing Dy-

nasty Buddhist Images. Chang

March 14: "Masterworks from the

Collection." Miyagi Museum of

March 14: "Goya : Un Regard

Libre." Palais des Beaux-Arts,

Lille, France. March 14: "L'Anima e il Volto."

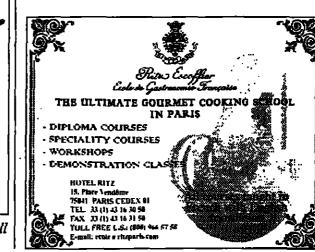
Palazzo Reale, Milan. March 14: "Adriaen de Vnes, Im-

Thyssen-Bornemisza

Foundation, Taipei.

Art, Sendai, Japan.

Carmen



BRIDGE

By Alan Truscott

in the second

1 m 24 34 1/6

OR the first time in nearly half a century, there will be no world championship this year. That is only just ship. true: The Bermuda Bowl and

world champions is expected recent practice game. A natural principle. world champions is ural sequence then led to six. There would still have to be among the result of the venice Trophy for wom-

en's leams. Kathie Wei, Betty Ann Kathie Wei, Berry And able and took neither. She for the 12th trick.

Kennedy, Juanitz Chambers, able and took neither. She for the 12th trick.

North

Stasha Cohen, Jill Blanchard won with the diamond king, and Irina Levitina began their cashed the heart ace and led finesse at the second trick 4 N.T.

the heart queen. When East would have left South in iconand Irina Levitina began the heart queen. When East would have left South in jeoppreparations in School played low she ruffed and ardy. She would have had to gen, Netherlands, by compet-

ing in the Forbo International Team Tournament. Wei and Kennedy, who were teammates for many years on major occasions,

cashed the spade ace. The ap- guess well in hearts to surpearance of the king was a vive. pleasant surprise, and South made an overtrick by establishing the fifth heart in the

dummy. have formed a new partner-If the spade king had not Kennedy has deferred to appeared, South would have true: The Definition 2001 will be the Partner's strong preference and adopted the Preciple will be played in the fall, will be sion System which accounts played in Bermuda in Janussion System, which accounts turn, she would have won in \$Q 10 854 for the opening one club on dummy, ruffed a heart and An American team of past the diagrammed deal from a removed any remaining

dummy, to secure another Wei had two finesses avail- ruff and score the last heart

SOUTH AQJ10963 ♦962 West led the diamond five.

NORTH (D) ♥AQJ74 OAK73 EAST VK863 +Q10987

"Art in Poland" is the theme of an exhibition that will tour several U.S. cities after its stay in Baltimore.

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South Korea Seeks Reform, Tentatively

Activists and Government Work to Break Grip of the Conglomerates

Ву	Sandra	Sugawara
		Poet Samilia

SEOUL — Hasung Jang slumped back in his chair, exhausted. The professor of finance at Korea University had changed his cellular phone number twice, but sill his phone rang relentlessly.

His outspoken advocacy of shareholder rights and free markets has made him a celebrity of sorts here. He was unprepared for the onslaught of attention, figuring it would bol, not it take several years before a shareholders rights movement troubles. gained any credibility in South Korea, where tycoons are accustomed to running their companies with iron fists.

But then came the economic crisis of late 1997, which caused South Korea to ask for a \$58 billion international bailout. In return for a massive rescue package, its newly elected president, the former dissident Kim Dae Jung, agreed to restructure the nation's closed and debridden economy and embrace the free market.

A key target of economic reform is the dominance of the nation's large family-controlled business groups, known as chaebol, which ran up dangerously high levels of debt through their expansion into a wide variety of industries.

The top five chaebol - Hyundai, Samsung, Daewoo, LG Group and SK Group — account for more than one-third of the country's gross economic output, giving them enormous power. The collapse of any one of those groups could be devastating to the economy.

Mr. Kim's new government enacted a series of laws to strengthen minority shareholder rights and remove barriers to hostile takeovers and foreign investments. He also launched a campaign to convince the nation that the chaebol, not foreign investors, were to blame for South Korea's

"Before, people were afraid to take action against the chaebol," said John Lee, a Korean-born American and senior vice president of Scudder Kemper Investments Inc.. based in New York. "They are so powerful, they are everywhere. People are still afraid, but at least the government is on their side." Scudder Kemper manages the Korea Fund, one of the largest and oldest mutual funds to invest solely in Korea, and has worked with Mr. Jang on shareholder rights issues.

"A year ago, I was cynical, quite pessimistic" about the

See CHAEBOL, Page 14

Retail-Sales Data Propel U.S. Stocks

Dow Sets a Record, Closing Just Short of 9,900 on Show of Prosperity

NEW YORK - Stocks rose to a range of blue-chip stocks posting gains stantially, from 0.2 percent. on signs that the U.S. economy was continuing to expand.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 124.60 points to close at a record 9,897.44. The 30-stock index rose to within 65 points of 10,000 earlier in the

The gains were fueled by the news The gains were fueled by the news that retail sales increased strongly in rising 1.8 percent in February. Sales of February as Americans opened their other goods rose a healthy 0.6 percent. Separately, the Commerce Department reported that the deficit in Americans thing from cars to furniture.

The sales — which represent about a

United States — jumped 0.9 percent last month to a seasonally adjusted \$236.5 billion, the Commerce Department said. The monthly gain, the seventh in a

row, came on top of robust rises of 1 percent in January and 1.1 percent in dard & Poor's DRI, said she expected

December figures were revised upward \$286 billion, reflecting continued global closing record Thursday, with a broad from previous estimates, January's sub- economic troubles.

> Several factors are combining to drive spending higher, including unemploy-ment near a 29-year low, low interest rates, record stock prices as measured by the Dow Jones average of industrial stocks and a substantial increase in federal tax refunds, compared with last year.

ica's broadest measure of foreign trade, third of the economic output of the the current account, soared by 50.4 percent last year to a record \$233.4 billion as the global financial crisis continued to batter American farmers and manufac-

> turers. Cynthia Latta, an economist at Stan-

December. Both the January and the 1999 current account deficit to hit

'We have a global economic slowdown with recessions in one-third of the globe and slowing growth in Europe. That means weak demand," she said. While the 1987 deficit was equal to 3.7 percent of the total economy, the

1998 imbalance was only 2.7 percent of a bigger U.S. economy. But if this year's deficit does climb to around \$290 bil-lion, that would make it equal to 3.3 percent of the gross domestic product.

Normally, bulging trade deficits would be a major political problem. But

the imbalances this time are occurring as domestic growth remains strong, pushing unemployment to the lowest levels in

In a reflection of the healthy job market, the Labor Department said Thurs-

See STOCKS, Page 14

Euro Soars as Traders Cheer Shake-Up in Bonn

NEW YORK --- The euro rose against the dollar Thursday after the surprise resignation of Finance Minister Oskar Lafontaine of Germany, fanning expectral Bank to lower interest rates.

This is great news for the euro simply because Lafontaine has been the

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

advocate for the weak-euro policy," said Stewart Newnham, a currency strategist at Commerzbank AG. Germany, Europe's biggest economy, ap-His departure "opens the way for a rate pointed a successor to Mr. Lafontaine. cut," he said.

In 4 P.M. trading, the euro was at \$1.1032, up from a low of \$1.0798 earlier and a close of \$1.0945 on Wednes-

The return investors would earn on euro-denominated assets rises with the rency, said Jeffrey Woodruff, a currency analyst at BankBoston in London. Cen-

repeated calls for a cut in the ECB's benchmark 3 percent interest rate un-

dermined the bank's independence. Lafontaine of Germany, fanning expec-tations that his departure would ease political pressure on the European Cen-somebody that isn't considered a freemarket thinker, and that's good for the euro. Traders didn't like the socialist side of his policies, which emphasized government involvement in markets."

But some traders said the currency's rebound may prove short-lived, as un-certainty was likely to persist over the direction of German public policy until

The single currency is down 5.6 per-cent since its inception Jan. 1, driven by expectations of slowing growth in the enro region. Lower interests rates are seen as helping stimulate economic growth in Europe.

Earlier Thursday in Brussels, Guy threat of a rate cut removed, which in Quaden, a member of the European Centurn helps the new single European cur- tral Bank council, suggested that there

See DOLLAR, Page 14

Alcatel to Cut 12,000 Jobs, Mostly in U.S.

PARIS - Alcatel SA, the French telecommunications-equipment maker, said Thursday it planned to cut 12,000 jobs over the next two years, mainly in the United States. Most of the job cuts, which amount to 10 percent of the work force, will come from restructuring U.S. operations, said Alcatel's chairman, Serge Tchuruk.

Of the job cuts, 5,000 had already been planned, 700 will come at DSC Communications Corp., a newly acquired U.S. unit, and other cuts will come from contracting out computer support and other tasks, he said.

Even with the cuts, Alcatel will not meet an operating profit target of 8 percent of revenue this year, Mr. Tchuruk said.

The chairman also said the company was negotiating with the French government to sell its 44 percent stake in Framatome, a state-

See ALCATEL, Page 15

For Increase In Lending

Foreign Banks Warned Not to Withdraw Credit

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

a Paring

BELIING - Chinese banks will increase lending to private enterprises and other companies outside the state sector to spur economic growth, the chief of the central bank said Thursday.

At the same time, other top centraleign banks against withdrawing credit and investment from the country, saying they may jeopardize future opportuni-

The comments on lending by Dai Xi-anglong, governor of the People's Bank of China, doverailed with plans by the National People's Congress, now hold-collect ing its annual session, to amend the constitution to emphasize the importance of private enterprise in the Chinese

on private enterprise to absorb many of the millions of people laid off from debt-ridden state factories.

Mr. Dai said at a news conference. state-owned banks to lend to small private businesses by allowing them to

charge higher interest rates. how much lending to the nonstate sector bankers. would increase. Such loans accounted



bank officials have bluntly warned for- Dai Xianglong taking questions after he announced the easing of credit.

The nonstate part of China's economy is a broad mix of private businesses. collectives and foreign-invested ven-

The official Liberation Daily on Thursday quoted the director of the People's Bank of China's powerful Shanghai regional branch, Wu Xisoling, The Chinese private sector has grown despite difficulties getting loans from as saying it was "to be expected" that balance of payments and steady exports this year. Contrary to some recent rerisk in its long-running financial re-

ridden state factories.

"We attach great importance to the development of the nonstate sector,"

Mr. Dai said at a news conference.

She warned foreign banks that if they

for 42 percent of the \$1.05 trillion issued "casually adjust or shrink their business by all financial institutions in 1998, an "China" and then apply again to do increase of 3 percent from the previous business there, "at the arrival of China's reat development period, these foreign

banks could lose their opportunity."

Mr. Dai also told reporters China planned to keep its currency, the yuan, stable this year and to allow more for-eign banks to do business in China.

In repeating assurances that the yuan would not be devalued, Mr. Dai said ports, there are no plans to study a possible devaluation, he said.

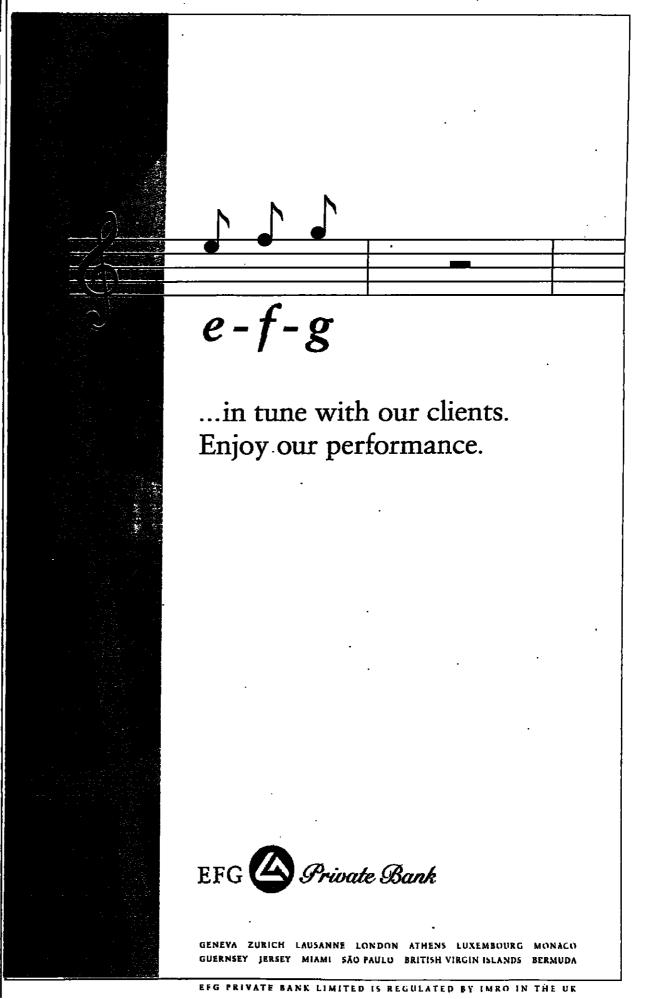
Mr. Dai also said China would make "very large concessions" in its bid to enter the World Trade Organization, al-

"We attach great importance to the levelopment of the nonstate sector," Mr. Dai said at a news conference.

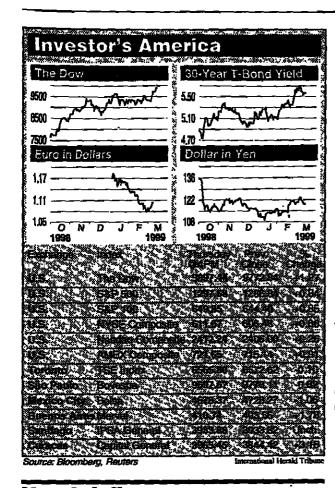
The central bank would encourage tate-owned banks to lend to small rivate businesses by allowing them to harge higher interest rates.

Mr. Dai gave no specific figures about own much lending to the nonstate sector of the nonstate sector, "of issuing Chinese financial laws," she was quoted as saying. "It can be said that the most disordered period in China's financial industry has aheady passed." China wants to be admitted to the work of the most disordered period in China's financial industry has aheady passed." WTO as a developing nation so that it can make fewer trade concessions. The founding meeting of an industry association including both foreign and local bankers. (AP, AFP, Bridge News)

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THE AMERICAS



Very briefly:

 Ingram Micro Inc., a distributor of personal computers based in Santa Ana, California, will cut 1,400 jobs, or 12 percent of its work force, and warned of disappointing first-quarter earnings because of price-cutting and slower sales abroad. Ingram shares rose \$1.125 to close at \$19.75.

• UBS AG of Zurich is boying Bank of America's international private banking activities in Europe and Asia in a deal that would add more than \$6 billion to its assets.

 Ogden Corp. will split into two publicly traded businesses. one for its energy operations and the other for entertainment and aviation.

• Land's End Inc.'s fourth-quarter earnings fell 21 percent as higher costs and markdowns on excess inventory offset an increase in sales for the catalog tetailer. Renters, Bloomberg, AFP

Icahn Opposes RJR's New Plan

NEW YORK - Carl Icahn, the investor and sometime corporate raider, said Thursday that he was launching a proxy battle to wrest control of RJR Nabisco Holdings Corp. because he opposed the method the company had chosen to break itself into separate food and tobacco operations.

Mr. Icahn said RIR Nabisco should retain its U.S. tobacco company and give its 80.5 percent stake in Nabisco Holdings On the New York Stock Exchange, ad-Corp. to its shareholders. Mr. Icahn is RJR Nabisco's biggest vancers outnumbered decliners by a 16known stockholder, with a 7.7 percent stake.

RJR Nabisco announced Tuesday that it would spin off the U.S. tobacco operations into a new company, R.J. Reynolds of companies being in the leadership Tobacco Co., leaving its 80.5 percent stake in Nabisco Holdrole, 's aid Bob Basel at Salomon Smith Tobacco Co., leaving its 80.5 percent stake in Nabisco Holdings Corp. as RJR Nabisco's sole asset.

Mr. Icahn's announcement said, "I believe that the marketplace would place a proper valuation on Nabisco as a freestanding company, separating it completely from RIR. RJR's shares closed unchanged at \$30.

U. S. STOCK MARKET DIARY

Bank Chief to Attack Brazil's Debt

By Larry Rohter New York Times Service

BRASILIA - The new president of the central bank has promised a "frontai attack" on the swelling public debt, cessful. brought on by the nation's financial crisis.

of the "recent turbulence" had passed, and he pointed to a firming of exchange rates and other encouraging signs in recent days. He predicted that Brazil would remm to the capital markets in a matter of weeks.

Mr. Fraga spoke hours before he and other top Brazilian officials embarked on a trip to New York and other financial capitals to explain Brazil's latest round of austerity measures and seek a reopening of credit lines.

A previous road show, led by Finincreased revenue from the privatiza-nance Minister Pedro Malan after tion of state companies and declining Brazil signed a \$41.5 billion rescue package with the International Mon-fulfill those obligations. ctary Fund in November, was not suc-

Investors and lenders remained edgy then, convinced that the Brazilian cur-Meeting here with a group of foreign rency, the real, remained overvalued, against the dollar. That allowed the value of the real to drop nearly 40 percent.

Because of that sharp decline, public debt, much of which is calculated in dollars, has jumped to 53 percent of the gross domestic product, Mr. Fraga acknowledged.

A revised agreement with the IMF. announced Monday, requires that to drop to 44.3 percent by 2002.

Mr. Fraga said a combination of

interest rates should enable Brazil to

"Our financial system is healthy and well financed," he said "That will, with the passage of time, produce lower interest rates."

The revised agreement with the IMF reporters Wednesday, the central and in mid-January the government foresees an inflation rate of nearly 17 banker, Arminio Fraga, said the worst abandoned a fixed exchange rate percent for 1999. It also projects that the Brazilian economy will contract as much as 4 percent this year. But Mr. Fraga, a former aide to the financier George Soros, shrugged off that fore-

cast as unduly pessimistic.

He said Brazil should be able to meet an increase in the budget-surplus target figure contained in the revised IMF agreement, the equivalent of 3.1 percent of the gross domestic product, without having to make additional spending cuts.

STOCKS: Prices Touch New Highs on Continued U.S. Expansion

Continued from Page 13

day that first-time claims for unemployment checks remained under 300,000 for the sixth consecutive week for the first time since 1974. Claims edged up by 1,000 last week to a seasonally adjusted 289,000. (AP, Bloomberg)

■ A Broad-Based Advance

Broader market indexes rose as investors reacted enthusiastically to the idea of a 10,000-point Dow, Bloomberg

holders depositing money and people waiting to open accounts filled the vestibule at the Charles Schwab Corp. branch at 57th Street and Park Avenue in

U.S. STOCKS

New York. As a broker helped one woman open an on-line trading account, three customers craned their necks to look at a market data terminal.

Professional traders also were encouraged by the market's rally. In composite trading, 222 stocks reached 52-week highs, while 205 fell to lows.

It was the first time in at least a month that new highs had outnumbered lows.

'People are happy to see a wide range Barney. "This has been long overdue." The Standard & Poor's 500-stock index rose 10.84 points to 1,297.68, after topping 1,300 for the first time earlier. The Nasdaq was up 6.25 points at Mr. Soros said, were "the internal ten-

2.412.25, having whittled away a 31- resentatives from some of world's top point advance.

Coca Cola rose 31/2 to 663/4, contributing the most to the Dow's gains. An before the Organization of Petroleun analyst at Donaldson, Lufkin & Jenrette Exporting Countries meets March 23. Securities raised his rating on the beverage company to "buy" from "market perform,' citing the company's "un-rivaled" global reach.

producers gathered in Amsterdam in hopes of reviving attempts to cut output before the Organization of Petroleum

Bonds fell after the retail sales report gave traders scant hope that interest rates would come down. The benchmark 30year Treasury bond was at 95 12/32, Oil stocks, including Chevron and Ex-xon, gained for a second day as rep-percent from 5.55 percent.

News reported from New York. At the lunch hour, a line of account DOLLAR: Euro Soars as Lafontaine Quits

Continued from Page 13

was room for lower rates in the euro

that European interest rates could still fall a bit," Mr. Quaden, the Belgian

billionaire financier George Soros said the new currency was destined to be weak because of flaws in the structure of

nations using the euro had different systems for taxation and spending, the euro would not function smoothly, The Guardian newspaper reported. Mr. Soros declined to say how far he thought the

Mr. Soros, a highly influential and successful speculator, had reserved judgment on the euro since its launch. Before then, however, he predicted that it would rival the dollar as a global reserve currency. At the core of the euro's difficulties,

sions inherent in a common currency without a common fiscal policy.

Mr. Soros said that before the euro's launch, European monetary policy was "dictated" by Germany. "But under the euro," he said, "that is no longer true, as each country is represented. That is acmally a disparity.'

political, such as the splits in Germany among the government, the Bundesbank Frankfurt and the fact that other European nations now had a greater say in

down from 119.750 yea, despite specgains in the yen because a stronger currency would make recovery from recession more difficult.

francs, down from 1.4595 francs. The pound was at \$1.6364, up from

region.
"I'm not saying that we can rule out central bank governor, told L'Echo.

The euro fell sharply earlier after the

European monetary union. Mr. Soros said that as long as the

euro might fall.

\$1.6265

The Guardian said Mr. Soros had told it that the euro's problems were partly and the European Central Bank based in

European monetary and tax affairs. The dollar also traded at 119.245 yen, ulation that Japan would move to limit

The dollar was also at 1.4536 Swiss

(Bloomberg, AFP, Market News)

الحاجان والمعادات

INTERNATIONAL FUTURES

			
Thursday		Thursday, March 11	High Low L
ndexes	Most Actives	High Low Lates Chige Optist	ORANGE JUICE (NCTN) 15,000 lbs costs per fb.
Oow Jones Open High Law Last On- plant 1789 N 1784 1787 1787 4-174 1 First 287 5 287 4 278 1 278 5 178 1 Day 284 1 202 2 284 1 200 4 178 1 Day 284 1 202 2 284 1 200 4 178 1	NYSE Vol. High Low Leaf Chy. Company 25278 31% 30% 30% -1% Amounton s 12322 66 55% +1%;	Grains CORN (CBOT) 5,000 by inhibitions casts per bushel Mar 99 219% 216% 217% unch. 7,029 May 99 225 222% 224% +1 134,015	Mar 99 87.50 83.51 8 May 99 85.20 83.00 8 Jul 99 85.01 83.00 8 Sep 97 83.50 83.08 8 Est sales N.A. Wed's sales
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Dow Jones Bond Previous Today Clase Neas 10 Bonds 104.38 104.88 10 Unitines 102.48 102.53	SPDR 64323 7374 7289 13079 +110x Resident 777 1379 13074 13075 +110x Resident 777 1379 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 13074 130	May 99 479 4784 478 45.450 July 9 467 460 4854 +1 44.767 Sug 99 4904 48314 4855 +1 14.917 Sug 99 492 467 46114 +214 5.819 Est. succession Werts sous 51.678 Wests coses int 163.401, up 1.228	Hay 99 535.0 526.5 5 Jul 99 536.5 527.0 5 Sep 99 536.4 533.0 5 Dec 99 535.8 527.9 5 May 90 535.8 527.9 5 Jul 90 5
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Troding Activity NYSE	Nasdag	Marr 99 289 264th 2681s +31s 1,876 Marr 99 277ts 272ts 277ts +2 46,103 Jul 99 287ts 282ts 287ts +21s 55,344 Sap 99 2874s 283 287ts +13s 55,346	PLATINUM (MAIER) 50 tray oz. dollars per tray o Apr 99 371.50 368.50 36 Apr 99 370.00 368.00 36
Class	Advanced 102 2017	Est. spies 20,000 Wed's spies 31,105 Wed's open int 120,141, off 1,103	Oct 99 36 Jam 00 36 Est, sales N.A. Wed's sales Wed's open by 17,368, off 8
	Uncompared 1979 1997 Total Issues 4821 5189 Here Loves 57 63 Market Sgles	Livestock CATTLE (CMER) 40,000 Rb cents per b. Apr. 9 68.00 67.25 67.00 -1.10 48.944	Cos LONDON METALS (LIME Dollars per metric lon
AMEX Comp Press Advanced 259 274 Declined 254 271	Today Pres. 4 F.M. com.	Jun 99 65.87 65.00 65.07 -0.78 37,466 Aug 99 65.25 62.85 62.97 -0.13 15.299 Oct 99 65.21 64.92 65.05 -0.12 9,449	Atomicio (High Grade) Spot 115215 11531 Forum 1175.00 1176.0
Advanced 298 274. Declined 254 281. Justimaged 177 170. Justimaged 177 170. Justimaged 279 725. General Levis 22 8. Justimaged 12 18. Justimaged 17 18. Justimaged 17 18. Justimaged 18 18 18. Justimaged 18 18 18. Justimaged 18 18 18. Justimaged 18 18 18. Justimaged 18 18. Justimaged 18 18 18. Justimaged	NYSE 910.49 1,019.67 Amex 37.99 42.29 Nosdog 1,012.14 936.67 In millions.	Feb 00 67.80 67.75 67.77 +0.02 1,877 Est soles 14.034 Wed's soles 19,099 Wed's open int 116.445, up 70	Copper Cuthodes (High Gri Spot 1378,00 1379,0 Forward 1405,00 1486,0 Lead Spot 500,00 501,0 Forward 504,00 505,0
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Company Per Ami Rec Pay IRREGULAR Bk of Amadar 285 3-22 4-8 Brook Fund 15 3-19 3-31 FACS Records g 2957 3-31 4-15	Fortis Secur M 06 3-25 4-15	May 99 73.05 72.26 72.25 0.57 5.270 Aug 99 75.40 74.85 74.97 0.35 1.508 Sep 99 74.90 74.70 74.70 0.35 861 Oct 90 75.35 74.97 74.92 0.28 938	Thr - \$715.00 \$125.0 Forward \$220.00 \$225.0 Zinc (Special High Grade) Soot 1078.00 1000.0
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intercentinentii Lf2 for 1 spffi. Wiley, John A&B 2 for 1 spffi. INCREASED	LartiAbb Affi 8C 73 2-11 2-19 Morgan JP 9 1-22 4-15 Affi 8C 99 1-22 4-15 Affi 8C 9-10 1-22 1-19 Affi 9C 9-10 1-22 1-19 Affi 9C	APR 54 547 547 448 7440 149 548 557 448 7440	Financ US 7 BILLS (CMER) S1 willion, pix of 108 pct.
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Am Biblithe Amend Vest Propp 12 3.21 4-14 Chin Appartment g M 38 3.31 4-15 Capital Re Q 34 3.22 3-29 Capital Re Q 30 3.73 4-1 Contractor Cda g 30 3.73 4-1 Contractor Cda g 319 4-15 Contractor Cda g 319 4-15 Contractor Cda g 319 3-3 Equity Inco AT & 1 44 3-15 4-27 179 3-34 4-27	Wolkenge Computer G .16 6-1 6-21 Washington Post G 1.30 4-23 5-7 Wiley, John B, G .0562 4-2 4-15	PORTS BELLIES (CMER) 40,000 Bbs consis per is. 40,000 Bbs consis per is. 40,000 Bbs consis per is. 40,000 Bbs 51,75 50,30 50,75 40,80 2,639 Mary 9 51,75 50,30 50,75 40,80 2,639 July 9 52,80 51,70 51,72 -1,96 1,047 Ed. addeb 1,125 Wards soles 1,382 Ward's open lart 4,334, cell 20	5 YR TREASURY (CBOT) \$100,000 prin- pix & 640s or Mar 97 110-25 110-97 11 Jan 97 111-25 111-49 11 Sep 97 Est. soles 55,000 Wey's sel Weds open int 259,157, of
EQUITY INCO AT & T, M 44 3-15 4-1 F&M Noti 9 .195 3-26 4-27 First Example 0 .16 3-31 4-14	n-anneal: b-appreximate amount per share/ADR: g-payable in Canadian funds; m-monthly; q-quarterly; s-sembanically.	Food	
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y,S. Stock Tables Explained	_ ·- _	Mer 99 1205 1193 1205 +5 2704 Mer 99 1218 1191 1215 +5 30.195	Am 97 15-03 14-20 13-55 14-20 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55 13-55
sales figures are unafficial. Yearly highs an	lows reflect the previous 52 weeks plus the	Jul 99 1242 1215 1240 +5 13,600 Sup 99 1262 1238 1262 +4 7,929	Est soles 125,571 Wests so Wed's open in 508,436, of

\$2 million ph; of 100 pct.

\$5.10 +0.60 -264 Mar 97 95.06 95.06 Unch.

\$5.20 +0.60 16.769 Apr 97 95.04 95.04 95.06 Unch.

\$3.20 -0.45 5.207 May 97 95.00 95.02 95.02 Unch. COTTON 2 (NCTIO) 50,000 fbt. costs per ft. May 99 63.65 61.65 UNLEADED GASOLINE (NMER) CAC # DIATED ...

Gold Fixings Internet address:

ning Agency. "It least, there is bearing heartly under his hard hat. Mr. Takahashi runs a of state at the Economic Plansmall construction company in Nakanojomachi, and he now What is different this time, has several new government though is that he government is battling the recession contracts. Those contracts, in turn, have enabled him to boron many front: It is borrowing more heavily to finance its row \$400,000 from the bank. Some private economists spending, and itis cleaning up in Tokyo sound a bit more the banking system to allepositive than they did a few months ago, but then again The next sgn of Japan's progress come Friday, with they could scarcely have bethe release of a report on the come more negative. Many gross domeste product for describe the huge govern-the last quarte of 1998. ment stimulus package as having stabilized the econo-Some good news, at least, my rather than revived it. has been winding its way from the trembes. Orders for Prices are still falling, signew homes are up. Some naling deflation. Corporate

out nearly \$6 billion in shop-

ping coupons, and there are

are encouraging consumers to

Fumio Takahashi, for one.

JAPAN Hopes for a Recovery

finally bottomedout "I think some signs that the coupons

Continued from Page 1

the worst time las passed."

viate the credi shortage.

their businesses, while others

ation."

said Taichi Sakiya, minister spend more.

companies are refocusing profits for this fiscal year, which ends March 31, are expected to be dismal - down are selling of products that had been piling up in ware-houses. Barks, which had slashed their lending under nearly 25 percent on average from the previous year. Just last week, the index of leadthe burden othundreds of biling economic indicators lions of dollars in bad debts, turned down, after two are beginning to ease up on months of pointing upward.

Japanese politicians and credit. Smallcompany stocks economists agree that this are aggressively rebounding. year will be critical for the Even Mr. Sakaiya, however, his moderated his economy, mainly because the leadership is running out of view from late last year, when he said he aw a "quickenoptions. The government is spending so much on the ing" in the conomy. spending so much on the "We have to have growth stimulus that its budget defthis year," aid Mr. Sakaiya. icit is running near 10 percent 'Otherwise in the scheme of of total economic output and history Japas will be heading the national debt burden will into a dark age if negative soon exceed the size of the \$4

trillion economy. The Bank of Japan, the na-The biggest stimulant has tion's central bank, also has come from he government, fewer tricks left in its bag of which has been pumping taxpolicy tools, and bank officials payers' money into the conprivately acknowledge that struction of cams and bridges and setting up lending programs throughout the counmonetary policy will have limited influence in the near futry. In a grard giveaway, the ture. Short-term interest rates government is also passing already are effectively zero.

CHAEBOL: Tentative Reform

Continued from Page 13

growth continues.

reforms the government was is Lee Hun Jai, the chairman promising, Mr. Lee said. "But of the Financial Supervisory

now I'm quite impressed."

Indeed, the reforms pushed by the government have stabilized the currency, pushed tracted foreign investment money at record rates. The trade account registered a surplus of \$39.9 billion in 1998, its first surplus in years. The government, the International Monetary Fund and many private economists are pre-

least 2 percent this year. South Korea's biggest im- Newbridge Capital Ltd. mediate problems are its 1.76 slowing global economy. which is hurting exports, its government.

main growth engine. fort to force them to sell off dium-sized companies. inefficient operations and foaccounting tricks to avoid not connections.

The pressure for reform is intensifying as foreign intensifying as foreign indeed that chaebol swap tivists join forces. companies, an effort to force

or subsidiary to Hyundai.

If there is a czar of the South Korean reform effort, it is Lee Hun Jai, the chairman Commission.

Under Mr. Lee, the govemment seized a number of insolvent banks, closed five interest rates down and at- and then pumped massive tracted foreign investment amounts of money into the system. The result is that the banking system has stabilized after teetering near collapse.

More significantly, the government has agreed to sell SeoulBank to HSBC Holdings PLC, based in London, dicting a growth rate of at and Korea First Bank to a U.S. investment group led by

The sales also are an at-

their debts this year in an ef- program for small and me-

cus on their profitable ones. attempt to ensure that capital Many investors, however, would be allocated to compasuspect that chaebol may use nies based on profits and risk,

John Lee first read about

industry consolidation known Mr. Jang in a South Korean as the "big deals."

The big deals have drawn substantial criticism, especially after the government threatened to cut off bank Robertson's Tiger Managers of Julian threatened to cut off bank Robertson's Tiger Managers of Julian threatened to cut off bank Robertson's Tiger Managers of Julian threatened to cut off bank Robertson's Tiger Managers of Julian Robertson's Tiger Manage credit to LG Group unless it ment Corp., a private investagreed to sell its semiconduct-ment fund. Last year, Tiger Management and Scudder Some foreign investors say helped Mr. Jang persuade SK this effort may be necessary to shake things up at the fossilized chaebol. 'It looks Telecom Co., a major cellular phone service provider, to appoint an outside director. Unugly. But I think in the be- der the agreement, the director ginning the government has to must approve certain types of be involved," said Mr. Lee. financial transactions.

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EUROPE

Investors Betting on BNP's Success

Bank Shares Soar After Bid for Societe Generale and Paribas

Bloomberg News PARIS — Societe Generale SA, Paribas SA and Banque Nationale de Paris SA shares soared on their first day of trading after BNP offered to buy the two rival French

banks for \$38 billion in stock, reflecting growing investor expectations the hostile bid may succeed. "Having seen the plans and looked at the alternatives, I'm con-

BNP, France's third-largest bank, made the surprise offer late Tuesday

to buy Societe Generale and Paribas, which plan a \$16 billion merger France, but investment bankers said of their own, in a share swap that any such attempts by a foreign bank would create the world's largest would run into political and regbank, with about \$1 trillion of as-ulatory obstacles.

Core Units Lift

Vivendi Profit

rose 15.55 euros, or 18 percent, to viser. Societe Generale was meeting 101.50, and BNP rose 5.60 euros, or with investment bankers from Mor-

7.2 percent, to 83.00. premium of 14 percent above Tnes- is to meet Friday morning. day's closing price. The bank is also offering 11 of its shares for eight Paribas shares. That values Paribas at 106.43 euros, 18 percent above its

commonly traded during the offer the least likely option. period, which started Feb. 12. "There will certain BNP's shares also were helped by speculation about a rival bid for either BNP or SocGen from outside

2 percent, to 83.00, gan Stanley Dean Witter & Co., BNP offered 15 of its shares for Credit Suisse First Boston and Merseven Societe Generale shares, a rill Lynch & Co. as it decided how to value of 165.87 euros a share, a respond to BNP's bid. BNP's board

Investors said that whatever the bid's merits, there was certain to be a response of some kind from Soc-Mark Holland, an equity arbitrage analyst at Exane, a French securities commonly traded decrease an immediate acceptance seemed

"There will certainly be some kind of strong counterattack," said Damien Bachelot, managing director of Aforge Finance, a corporate finance and asset manager.

Even so, the prospect of SocGen launching a counterbid for BNP Societe Generale rose 19.40

Paribas, which was to hold a who say Socord would be board meeting Thursday night to plain to investors why it was paying a errors or 13 percent to close at decide how to respond to the bid, higher price to create the same comdraws little support from investors, euros, or 13 percent, to close at decide how to respond to the bid, higher price to create the same of 164.90 euros (\$180.40). Paribas hired Rothschild & Cie. as its ad-



BNP and Societe Generale, neighbors in a Paris street.

Thomson Posts Loss

The stock has gained 24 percent since March 2, when the company PARIS - Thomson-CSF, a military-electronics company, posted a offered \$2 billion for Xylan Corp., a loss of 232 million euros (\$254.1 data-networking company based in million) for 1998 on Thursday, cit-Calabasas, California. Two days ing charges for acquisitions and job later, it agreed to buy Assured Accusts, but said it would return to

profitability this year. Thomson's loss contrasted with a profit of 324 million euros in 1997. The 1998 loss was in line with pre-

Thomson-CSF took charges of 438 million euros, covering provisions for 4,000 job cuts in the next two years and to absorb defense

Israel Seeks Euro Ties

Repuers

FRANKFURT — The governor of the Bank of Israel, Jacob Frenkel, chairman, said Usinor would look at said that his country should cement ties with the euro zone and eventually meet Maastricht treaty criteria, the newspaper Frankfurter Allgemeine reported Thursday.

Mr. Frenkel said that he hoped that some day Israel would sign the treaty, which established terms for European monetary union.

Telecom Italia **Unveils Bid** To Foil Olivetti

ROME - Telecom Italia SpA confirmed Thursday that it would seek to buy the rest of its cellularphone subsidiary and expand share-

holder voting rights to my to thwart a takeover bid by Olivent SpA. A merger with Telecom's 60 percent-owned subsidiary, Telecom Italia Mobile SpA, would drive up the price of what is already the largest takeover attempt in European telecommunications. Olivetti announced a 52.6 billion euro (\$57.6 billion) hostile bid for Telecom Italia last month.

A merger with the mobile-phone subsidiary, known as TIM, would add about 20 billion euros to Telecom Italia's price. Telecom Italia said it would ask shareholders to approve the merger by April 16, emphasizing the benefits to be gained from integrating its fixed-phone services with the mobile network.

Telecom Italia's defense plan: announced Thursday after its board met late into Wednesday night, also includes upgrading its nonvoting savings shares to ordinary voting shares. In addition, Telecom Italia plans to buy back as much as 10 percent of its stock if shareholders

approve the program. But Olivetti contends that Telecom Italia's proposed absorption of the mobile business violates takeover laws that bar defensive moves by target companies and has asked regulators to intervene. Italian securities regulators have not given

a timetable for a decision. Telecom Italia will propose to shareholders April 16 that it give four new ordinary Telecom Italia shares for every five TIM ordinary shares and nine Telecom Italia shares for every 20 TIM nonvoting savings shares. The board will also propose to increase capital by issuing 2.68

billion new ordinary shares. Telecom Italia also said its operating profit rose 10 percent, to 9.2 trillion lire (\$5.2 billion), last year as its net debt reached 15.7 trillion lire and sales grew 5 percent, to 45 trillion lire. It said its 1998 net income was "much above" the 1997 figure, though it did not provide details.
(AP, Bloomberg, Bridge News)

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Very briefly:

• The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development posted a loss of 261.2 million euros (\$285.8 million) in 1998, reversing a profit of 16.2 million euros in 1997 because of the economic collapse in Russia.

• Diageo PLC's first-half pretax profit rose to £972 million (\$1.6 billion) from £716 million a year ago, helped by cost cutting, but operating profit fell 11 percent because of declining demand for liquor in Asia and Latin America.

· Switzerland's gross domestic product grew 1 percent in the fourth quarter, bringing growth for all of 1998 to 2.1 percent, as a surge in company spending and continued growth in consumer spending partly made up for a drop in exports.

· Saatchi & Saatchi PLC's full-year profit rose 32 percent, to £25 million, as new business from existing and new clients lifted sales and earnings.

• Reed Elsevier PLC, posted a 6 percent drop pretax profit for 1998, to £773 million, as it spent more on electronic publishing and had slower sales in some markets. It warned that earnings were likely to be flat this year.

· Hungary's annual inflation rate fell to its lowest level since July 1987 in February as food retailers held back on price rises after the cost of vegetables and dairy products fell. Consumer prices rose 1.3 percent in February from the previous month. OMV AG's fourth-quarter net income fell nearly 70 percent from a year ago, to 160 million schillings (\$12.7 million), as oil prices close to 12-year lows caused the Austrian oil producer to take a one-time charge to write down the value of its assets.

• The Paris, Milan and Zurich stock markets signed a pact to give cross-membership in all three markets to their members by the second half of the year. Bloomberg. AFP, Reuters

at its core utility businesses and the first profit from its tele-

PARIS — Vivendi SA, the French water utility, said Thursday its profit rose 17 per-cent in 1998 because of growth phone operations.

The company earned 1.1 billion euros (\$1.2 billion) in 1998, up from 822 million euros in 1997.

The company said it expected sales and net income to increase at least 10 percent in

Vivendi proposed increasing its dividend 20 percent, to 2.75 euros from 2.29 euros in 1997. The company said earnings from water operations rose 9 percent, to 430 million euros. Its communications unit, which includes publishing activities and its Cegetel mobile phone service, posted an operating profit of 280 million curos, reversing a loss of 199 million euros in 1997.

WORLD STOCK MARKETS Thursday, March 11
Prices in local currencies;
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ALCATEL: 12,000 Jobs to Be Cut Continued from Page 13

controlled maker of nuclear reactors that has an estimated total value of about \$3 billion. Selling Framatome would allow Alcatel to complete efforts to focus on telecommuni-

pushed to sell the Framatome stake after plans to merge it with Alstom fell apart in 1997. Mr. Tchuruk said the 10 percent staff reduction in 1999 and 2000

would save 300 million euros (\$328.6 million) a year. He also said he expected to improve operating profit margins to 7

percent from 4 percent in 1998. A target of 8 percent was set in 1996. "I am still keeping the 8 percent target in view," he said, but "we are taking longer to get there than I had hoped" because of a slowdown in the telecommunications-switching

Alcatel is trying to win back investor confidence after a warning in September that it would miss its over the next two years. 1998 profit forecast drove the stock down 38 percent in one day. Alcatel shares closed at 118.50 euros, up million euros the previous year.

efforts to focus on telecommunicess Technology Inc. of Milpitas, cations equipment. Mr. Tchuruk has California, for \$350 million. "They're definitely moving in the right direction now, and I expect them to continue doing so," said Jean-Pierre Viteaux, a fund man-

ager with BBL Asset Management. (AP, Bloomberg) ■ Usinor to Lose 3,000 Jobs

Usinor SA, the French steelmaker, said it would trim 3,000 jobs over the next three years and announced a 7 percent increase in 1998 profit, news agencies reported from Paris.

Francis Mer, the company's 'all available options" for reducing its work force. He said 1,500 jobs would be cut this year and 1,500

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Usinor also said net profit rose to 335 million curos last year from 313 (Bloomberg, AFP) 2873 4600 825 12075 6275 10000 2400 2950

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The West Discovers a High-Tech Gold Mine in Hungary

By Peter Serenyi Renters

BUDAPEST - Picked as one of Europe's 25 most pany up to the level that is promising high-technology needed to do development companies, the Hungarian with the speed required software maker Cygron Kft today," Mr. Kiraly said. had everything going for it -

except customers and sales. clients until a company from em Europe. California's Silicon Valley company invested in it.

Mindmaker Inc. of San Jose, California, bought Cygron last July and this year Budapest, founded latel that consult ship 50,000 copies of Corp., which makes chips for arena. DataScope, Cygron's data- 90 percent of personal comprocessing software, to cli- puters worldwide. Janos Neuents worldwide.

was that their product was not father of computers after his marketed, 'said Jozsef Kiraly, work in the 1940s. chairman of Mindmaker.

To hear the report of the Linu

By Order of the Board of Direct October 5, 1998

to in the aggregate more than three lefer may act at any Meeting by proxy.

\$15 million investment drive. "We can build the com-

Mindmaker is one of a growing number of compa-Despite beating out almost nies investing millions of dol-300 companies in a European lars in Hungary's high-tech-Union competition, the three- nology industry, putting the employee start-up had sales country on the map as a poof \$43,000 and fewer than 20 tential Silicon Valley in East-

> Hungarians are not newcomers to the field of high technology.

Andy Grove, a native of mann, a Hungarian mathem-"The problem for Cygron atician, is considered to be the

Now some multinational

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ociété d'Investissement à Capital Variabi Kansullia House - Piace de l'Emile B.P. 2174, L-1021 Luxembourg

NOTICE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

ous imposed by the Articles of Incorporation of the Company with regard to ownership of shares which

Investments

headquarters for research and development, while local sucgarians can produce software

We think that Hungary The company increased Cy-firms are picking Hungary to "We think that Hungary gron's staff to 20 as port of a become their worldwide has the largest number of people we can hire," said Gabor Elo, head of Nokia's cess stories are proving Hun- Budapest research center. Graphisoft NV of Bud-

> A growing number of companies are investing in Hungary, taking advantage of a work force highly trained in math and science. The country has produced a string of Nobel prize winners in those fields, and the costs of doing business there are much lower than in the West.

that can compete in the world

Nokia Oy will make Hungary its largest software development center after its Finnish headquarters when it completes a plan to hire 500 software developers in Hungary by 2001.

apest became the world's third-largest maker of computer-design software used by architects after Gabor Bojar, a former professor, started the company in 1982 by pawning his wife s jewelry for \$5,000.

The company became the first software firm in Eastern Europe to issue shares to the public last June, raising 92 million Deutsche marks (\$51.6 million) on Frankfurt's Neuer Markt. But the stock has taken a dive from its issue price of 40 DM, falling Thursday.

Mr. Bojar said Hungary's strong tradition in mathematics helped to propel the company's success.

The level of mathematary schools is still much higher than in the West," Mr. Bojar said from his headquarters in Graphisoft Park, a new office complex for high-tech firms that has been touted as a miniature Silicon Valley.

Hungary has produced a string of Nobel Prize winners in mathematics and science. Szent-Gyorgyi Albert

earned one in 1937 for discovering Vitamin C and Janos Harsanyi, an economist, won the prestigious award in 1994 for his con-

tribution to game theory after emigrating to the United genius is just as important as

nita, a local image recogni- come up with solutions that tion software producer, de- defy the textbook, said Gabor cided to sell itself to the mar- Kadas, chairman of Huket leader Caere Corp. of the mansoft, a California elec-United States for \$3 million in tronic games developer that order to expand its sales in employs 30 software engi-Western markets.

We definitely had extremely good technology, but ident of a U.S. video game we didn't have the chance to software maker visited Hupenetrate much more heavily mansoft's Budapest offices to into the world market," said see how it was using math-Akos Reszler, chairman of ematical formulas called al-Greece and Turkey with a anese magazines. market share of more than 80 percent.

"What we got from the das recalled. new owner were much bigger chances for earning revenue

Last year, Recognita's profit surpassed the previous rear by more than 10 times, to 310 million forints (\$1.4 million) on revenues of 870 million forints.

to 19.60 euros (\$21.45) on three out of its seven new products.

"Software developers are thing different."

ry good here and are very Mr. Reszler of Recognita very good here and are very costs," Mr. Reszler said. ical education in the second- They can cost one-third as requisite to success in Hun-Official figures are not

available for how much money foreign firms have in- are reluctant to sell a stake to vested in Hungary's software foreigners for fear of losing Mr. Bojar of Graphisoft put the figure between \$200 mil-

That is still a trickle compared with the \$19 billion in foreign investment that Hun-

Akos Reszler, chairman or Recognita, whose leading product, Recognita Plus, gine for a game later praised dominates Eastern Europe, in the U.S., German and Jap-The executive could hardly believe what he saw, Mr. Ka-'He looked around the of-

neers in Budapest.

technical rigor. Hungarians

Once, he said, a vice pres-

fice and realized that we had and profit." Mr. Reszler absolutely no books and he asked, 'How did you come up with this technology?" Mr. Kadas recollected during a phone interview from his San Mateo, California, headquar-

"We said if we use the Mr. Reszler said Recognita algorithms that are common had become an engineering in the book, then we would hub for Caere, developing come up with the same solu-three out of its seven new tion," Mr. Kadas said. "The whole idea was to do some-

that could sell abroad, a premuch as in the West, he said. gary's minuscule domestic market.

However, many local firms control. Mr. Reszler said.

Mr. Kiraly of Mindmaker said Hungarian software delion and \$300 million, not including the money raised by to learn basic techniques of Graphisoft's share issue. to learn basic techniques of quality control that a Western quality control that a Western fund management industry.

company could teach. quality requirements, they gary has attracted since the can compete with anybody in fall of communism in 1989.

Very briefly:

 Publicly traded companies in Malaysia will have to report their results every three months starting Aug. I, the Kuala Lumpur stock exchange announced. Malaysia, facing its worst recession in more than four decades, has been under Unlike Graphisoft, Recog- have an uncanny ability to pressure to improve corporate governance and transparency.

 Pohang Iron & Steel Co. will allow 10 foreign shareholders to attend its annual meeting next week, the first time the South Korean state-run company has invited investors from abroad since it was opened to foreign ownership. The move was seen as a nod to both minority shareholder rights and the need to increase foreign investment to help South Korea out of recession. Foreign shareholders own 38.1 percent of the company; the government controls it with a 27.28 percent stake that it has pledged to sell.

Canary Wharf Ltd. will price its shares between 280 pence (\$4.55) and 350 pence on the London exchange as the property company floats a 25 percent stake that will raise between £470 million (\$289 million) and £585 million.

• Indian Airlines, the unprofitable domestic carrier, will see the government sell off a 51 percent stake, with 10.6 percent of the shares reserved for airline employees. The government, which will keep 49 percent of the airline, in December put a new managing director and board in place. The government fired the previous board, a joint board overseeing indian Airlines and the international carrier Air India, after it announced a merger of the two companies.

• Telefonica SA shares - 2.968 million of them - were picked up by fund managers for 41.92 euros (\$45.88) per share as the Spanish government reduced its stake in the phone company to a mere 373 shares, according to Banco Bilbao Vizcaya SA, which managed the sale with Goldman, Sachs & Co.

• Kamps AG, Germany's only publicly traded bakery, got approval from the Frankfurt stock exchange to join the new SMAX Index for small companies from its April 26 start. The company took a charge of 5.7 million Deutsche marks (\$3.2 million) for its initial public offering in April, dropping its 1998 net income by 29 percent. Kamps shares have surged 76 Bloomherg, Reniers, AFP 🔝 percent this year.

competitive in terms of their educational skills and labor ups in Hungary had products Prudential to Buy M&G, **Enhancing Funds Role**

Corp., a British insurer, said Thursday it agreed to buy M&G Group PLC, a British money manager, for £1.9 bil-lion (\$3.1 billion), enhancing chief executive of Prudential. its position in Britain's retail

Prudential is offering £25 "As soon as they learn the for each M&G share, a premium of 40 percent to the clos-ing price of £17.875 per almost £150 billion. M&G share Wednesday.

"The combination of LONDON - Prudential Prudential and M&G creates leading market positions in the U.K. retail insurance and investment product sectors, M&G has £20 billion under

management. Prudential takeover would increase its (Bloomberg, Reuters)

INTERNATIONAL FUNDS March 11, 1999 **Advertisement** For information please contact. Lyona Raab: Fax (33-1) 41 43 92 12 or e-mail: tunds@iht.com To receive free daily quotations for your funds subscribe at: e-funds@ih2.com http://www.iht.com/IHT/FUN/fun 628 CITTRANK GLOBAL ASSET MGT (ASIA) LIG Tel 00 857 7868 6266 Ftp 00 857 2523 1379 ABM ANNO Penils 1: 252-to 2) Annotation 180 Lu. Fr 32: Login America Eq Fd Japon Equity 190 Luin 180 L LUXE MAGURG (TH: 157 14 181) THE OASIS FUND SICAV The PLETCHER ASSET MARIAGEMENT
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ASIA/PACIFIC

Moody's Cuts Nissan's Debt Rating to 'Junk'

ruled out buying Nissan Motor Co., Moody's (\$38.34), down 1.55. Investors Service Inc. on Thursday on the longterm debt rating of Japan's second-largest car companies other than DaimlerChrysler," Niscompany to "junk" status because of concern that it will have difficulty paying down its industry-high debt of 4.3 trillion yen (\$36 bil-

The U.S. rating concern lowered Nissan's senior unsecured debt rating to Bal. or below investment grade, from Baa3 and said it may further cut the automaker's long-term rating. It also downgraded the ratings of Nissan's supported subsidiaries.

But Japanese media were reporting Thursday that Renault SA would buy a controlling stake in Nissan, giving the French carmaker a foothold in Asia.

The Nihon Keizai and Yomiuri newspap reported that Renault would buy between 33.4 percent and 40 percent of Nissan. The companies hope to reach agreement by March 31. Yomiuri said, citing unnamed sources. Both companies declined comment on the reports.

A purchase would give Renault access to some of the world's most efficient factories, to markets in North America and Asia, where it has little presence, and to world-class technology. But Nissan's debt scared away DaimlerChrysler and will be a big concern for Renault, analysts said.

'Nissan's debt worries a lot of people,' said

Credit-rating concern, calculated and said company's weak decided ments," Moody's said.

Standard & Poor's Co.

credit-rating concern, calculated and said company and said.

Remy Dumouline, an analyst with HSBC Se- its Nissan ratings "in the absence of an adcurities in Paris. He said some investors thought that if DaimlerChrysler "turned down the chance to buy Nissan, then surely there has to be a problem.'

Nissan stock fell 12 percent Thursday, to auto analyst at Okasan Securities Co. close at 414 yen, while shares of its truck unit,

TOKYO—A day after Daimler Chrysler AG

Nissan Diesel Co., closed at 176 yea, down 31. said the company is prepared to sell a conled out buying Nissan Motor Co. Manual Shares closed at 35 euros trolling 33.4 percent stake in itself but is un-

"We will positively consider alliances with san said. "We will continue to explore joint projects with DaimlerChrysler that do not involve capital ties."

The downgrade reflects "the company's high debt levels and the long time period Moody's expects will be required for Nissan to reduce its debt load to more manageable

The downgrade comes as Renault is considering a link with the Japanese automaker.

levels," Moody's said. The downgrade affects about \$9.5 billion of debt and could make it more expensive for Nissan to raise funds.

Moody's said the cash it would gain from a

capital tie-up, such as with DaimlerChrysler or Renault, would not be enough to help the carmaker dig its way out of debt. "The immediate cash provided by potential equity partners would only marginally improve

the company's weak debt protection measure-Standard & Poor's Corp., the other dominant

credit-rating concern, also threatened to lower equate injection of new equity. Unless another antomaker steps in to help,

Nissan's plan to repay 1 trillion yen of debt by 2001 may take longer, said Kenji Tanaka, an

Nissan's president, Yoshikazu Hanawa, has

willing to yield management control. Without power over management, analysts said such an agreement was unlikely.

Renault's chairman, Louis Schweitzer, said Wednesday that the company was still studying a link with Nissan and Nissan Diesel, which is also deep in debt and losing money.

"This is both an opportunity and something ,that isn't easy because of the company and its current situation and also because of the cultural barriers that may exist," Mr. Schweitzer said.
"If Renault's talks with Nissan succeed, it is

unthinkable that we not look at Nissan Diesel," said Patrick Faure, chief executive of Renault Vehicules Industriels, the company's truck unit. Mr. Faure, speaking Wednesday in Paris, said the talks between Nissan and Renault were in their final phase.

The Japanese automaker also is in talks with Ford Motor Co., according to Japanese media, which did not cite sources. Nissan declined comment on the report. Ford said this year that it was not interested in taking on a lot of debt.

Nissan operates three of the 15 most efficient factories in the world as measured by productivity per employee, the London-based Economist Intelligence Unit said in October. Analysts say its engine technology is among the best in the

world. Renault's top factory was 39th.
Nissan has 22 factories outside Japan, including 10 elsewhere in Asia. It also has a factory in the United States, three in Europe, three in Africa and two in Latin America.

By contrast, Renault and other European automakers are 100 dependent on their home markets and suffer from poor quality, Graeme Maxton, a consultant for the Economist Intelligence Unit, said.

Firms Tighten Security After Thailand Killing

Agence France-Presse BANGKOK — Foreign business executives working with the Thai government on debt-restructuring plans put strict security measures into effect Thursday after the gangland-style murder of one of their the Asian financial crisis, the com-

A team of Australian insolvency advisers was evacuated from a cen-

tralians working with the govern-ment to rebuild companies burt by

he murder of Michael Wansley. leave," a Deloitte Touche repre-Mr. Wansley, an accountant and sentative said. "Obviously, we are Police said a gumnan Mr. Wansley, 58, of Melbourne, Mr. Wansley's van escaped injury. was shot to death Wednesday on his "We have not yet established the

tral Thai province to Bangkok and rity, and the individuals are now miles) north of Bangkok. He had Sungkorn, said.

placed under 24-hour security after assessing whether or not they will been working with the company on leave," a Deloitte Touche repre- a debt-restructuring plan.

Police said a gunman on a mosenior partner with Deloitte Touche concerned about the safety of our torbike had shot eight rounds from a Tohmatsu, led a team of 14 Aus-staff, but there is no sense of fear." pistol at Mr. Wansley. Four Thais in pistol at Mr. Wansley. Four Thais in

"We have not yet established the way to a South Sathorn Planner Co. motive, but it looks like a business sugar mill in Nakhon Sawan conflict," the provincial police "They now have 24-hour secu- Province, 240 kilometers (150 commander, Major General Surapol

Asia's Slump **Slices Profit** At Jardine

HONG KONG - Jardine Matheson Holdings Ltd., the Hong Kong trading company, said Thursday that its net profit tumbled 84 percent last year largely because of Hong Kong's recession and the economic slowdown in Asia.

Jardine's concentration on marketing, trading services and office space left it especially vulnerable in Hong Kong, where the economy shrank 5.1 percent last year.

The company posted net earnings of \$50.6 million, its least profitable year since the mid-1980s. Sales fell 2.5 percent, to \$11.2 billion. Operating profit also fell 2.5 percent, to \$239 million. Jardine will pay a final dividend of 13.8 cents, down from 17.2 cents.

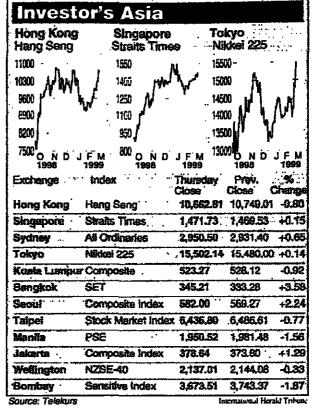
Jardine took a one-time charge of \$128.6 million to write off its interest in Edaran Ottomobil Nasional Bhd., the distributor of the Proton. Malaysia's best-selling car.

"We're not forecasting at this point any recovery in our underlying markets," said Alasdair Morrison, the managing director of Jardine. "In general terms, we would expect most of our businesses to operate at similar levels as in 1998.

Analysts said the company's re-bound may take time. "Jardine Matheson profits may recover in 1999, but it's going to be a very slow recovery," said Robert Sassoon, an analyst at SG Securities (H.K.) Ltd. "It's predominantly a Hong Kong company, and Hong Kong's economy isn't going to have a quick

Henry Keswick, the chairman of Jardine, said: "We expect depressed trading conditions to continue in Asia. It will be difficult to achieve

growth in our businesses in 1999." Jardine Strategic Holdings Ltd., a separate listed company with interlocking shareholding with Jardine Matheson, posted a loss of \$33 million. It was the first-ever loss for Jardine Strategic, which earned \$189 million in 1997.



Very briefly:

• Telstra Corp.'s half-year profit rose 12 percent, to 1.81 billion Australian dollars (\$1.15 billion), as strong sales of data and mobile phone services offset falling international revenues.

• Prime Television Ltd.'s first-half profit fell 49 percent, to 5.31 million Australian dollars, as financial turmoil in Latin America drove its Argentina television network into losses.

 Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.'s 1998 net profit fell to 1.12 billion pesos (S28.3 million) from 7.65 billion pesos in 1997, but provisions for bad accounts and losses at its mobile phone unit should place it in line for healthier growth.

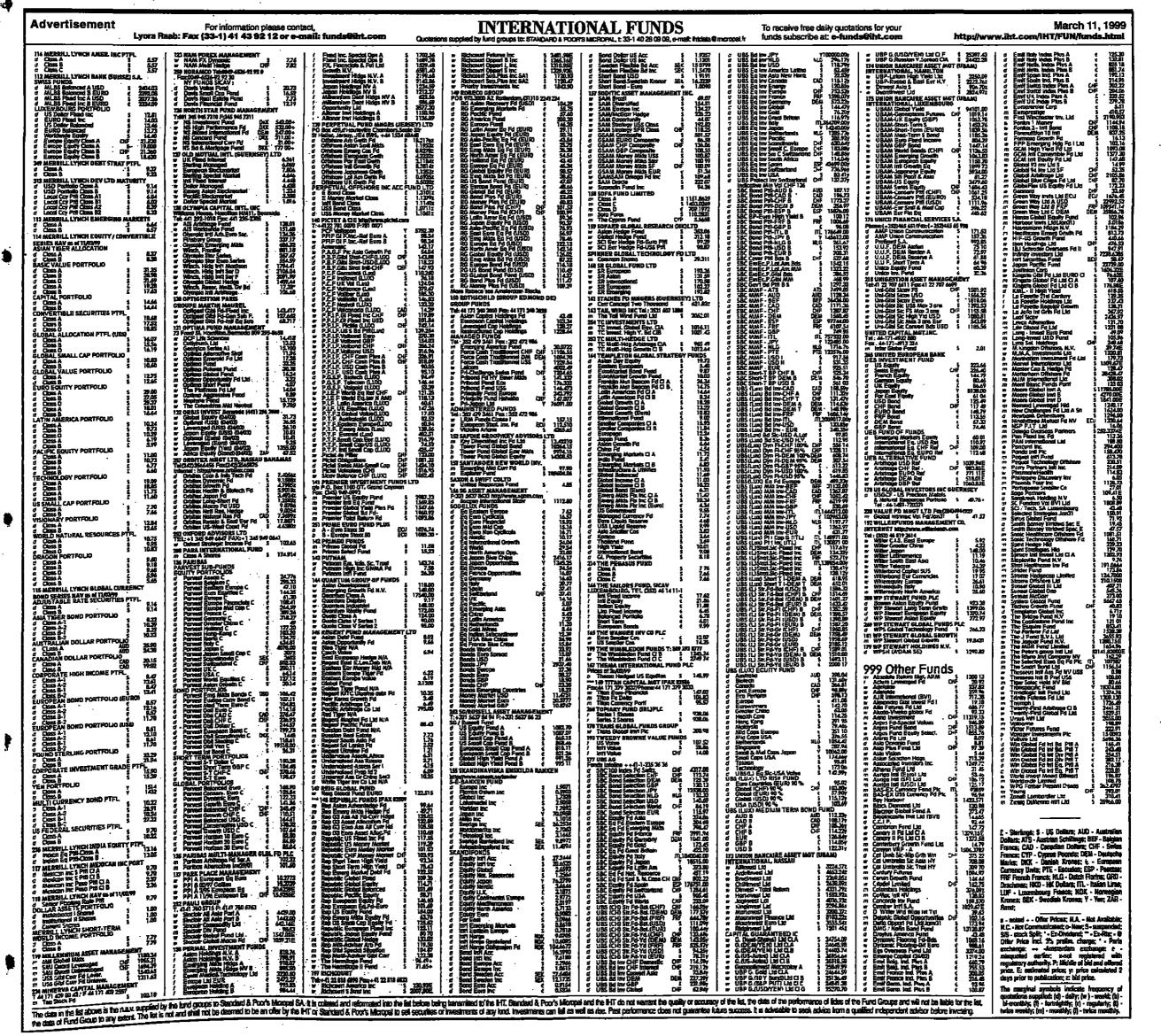
•SK Group agreed to buy 28.4 percent of its rival, Ssangyong Oil Refining Co., and planned to assume management control. Financial details were not disclosed.

 NTT Mobile Communications Network Inc. will increase international dialing destinations to 201 countries from March 31, from only six at present.

 AngloGold Ltd. is seeking joint-venture partnerships with Australian producers to win a share in mines producing more than 200,000 ounces a year.

• Seagate Technology Inc. will invest another \$120 million in each of its two Chinese factories, more than doubling its investment in China over the next three to five years.

 Japan's private-sector machinery orders dropped 22.9 percent in January from a year earlier, the tenth consecutive month of decline. Bridge News, AFP, Bloomberg, Remers



Fashion

By Suzy Menkes

Cerruti's Cool Futuristic Patchworks

more array crafty stuff can fashion take? The fall collections are filled with clothes that are either a riposte to futurism, or are intended, with their handmade effects, to take clothes to

ARIS - How much

another, more artistic dimension. The only show to make sense of this was Cerruti, where designer Peter Speliopoulos famously coined the fashion phrase "nature versus NASA." This season Cerruti was into "futuristic patchworks." That describes both simple dresses with three-dimensional shining squares as decoration - and the

the brisk-paced show. Out came the models on their sharpheeled zippered-back boots, in clothes that were still built on Cerruti's tailoring base, but in a fresh way. The star was the coat, cut close to the body with a rave waist and shiny patent belt. An alternative play on textures offered against bare flesh the ponyskin and fur that hip designers

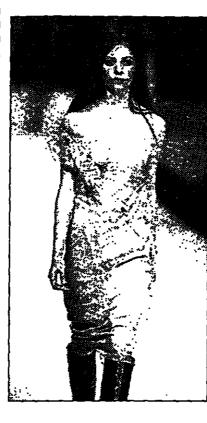
are using for dresses and brief jackets. This repetitive show won't change the face of fashion, but it offered a cool mix, with a peasant blouse under a streamlined black pantsuit and the jumper dress as a pivotal piece. And while relying on fabric research, it kept arty effects in check.

Ann Demeulemeester went a bit sauvage this season, sending out shearling coats so rugged and raw-edged that they looked as though they could costume "The Flintstones." But that was just the Belgian designer's take on the current hippie fling, and the styles were normal — following the same long wrapped lines she formerly used for

Demeulemeester's strength is that she menswear in the same spirit. moves forward to her own rhythm and in her own style, but if you look back at her earlier collections based on mannish pantsuits, she has changed quite radically, now focusing on dresses. They woman designer give the opposite sex all looked strong and sober in thick dry the straightforward clothes cut on just fabrics from wool through cotton.

Demeulemeester is also a queen of coats, applying her wrap technique to









Miyake's raised-patterned Eskimo outfit; Laroche's off-the-shoulder dress: Demeulemeester's coat over long dress: Sithon's op-art striped dress.

Martine Sitbon put her sporty menswear, flashed with strong color, on the runway for the first time. And the question is: why does a modern-minded the right lines, yet offers a complicated wardrobe to her sisters?

Sitbon has a nice take on modern long dark designs that tied at the back to fine effect. Like so many cool modern designers, she deals in subtle personal signatures: the tuck on the arm which gives coat, jacket or plain dress a tweak of individuality: or the line of delicate of individuality: or the line of delicate surfeit of cut-out leaves. That was a pity, sexy trench like paper darts pinched into its skirt, or punts had sneaky faux slits at the back. Using a palette of pale colors, primarily white, with ice blue or pale pink and pluyed in lumpen shrouds of tulle and a surfeit of cut-out leaves. That was a pity, sexy trench like paper darts pinched into its skirt, or punts had sneaky faux slits at the back. Using a palette of pale colors, primarily white, with ice blue or pale pink and surfeit of cut-out leaves. That was a pity, sexy trench like paper darts pinched into its skirt, or punts had sneaky faux slits at the back. Using a palette of pale colors, primarily white. With ice blue or pale pink and surfeit of cut-out leaves. That was a pity. open work stitches vertically at the mid- because the show started with a much Ortiz succeeded in moving Lanvin's riff, touching sweaters with sex appeal. stronger and cleaner linear theme, which There was also an interesting range of was also arry, in that geometric lines But it is still unclear where this house is

and positive effects be created in the black folds of a white pleated skirt. But there the theme enhanced, rather than overwhelmed, the clothes.

If you have to have artsy effects, they were nicely done at Lanvin, where the designer Cristina Ortiz used raised patterms to give surface interest to resolutely plain clothes. A dress would have pleats look forward from plain and minimal.

white dress are light years away from the you didn't already have something sim-Parisian's traditional little black dress.

Laroche on Thursday where Ronald Van better than pastels on most runways. der Kemp replaced Alber Elbaz (off to with Barneys in New York, bring just the

might be drawn down a dress or negative going in terms of image. Compass twirls coat. Pearl gray. A nice coat. Well cut. of embroidered sequins on an angular Just the thing you might find useful - if ilar in your closet. Good marks for the The promised regeneration of Paris beige leather boots. And so the show houses is difficult to achieve - not went on. A perfectly nice, modern-ish because there aren't designers out there bunch of clothes with a breath of oriwho make nice clothes — but how to ginality in the off-the-shoulder knitwear

> But why would anyone rush to Yves Saint Laurent in the current game Laroche to buy a black pantsuit, with or colorful peasants in just the folkloric of designer musical chairs). Would the without its glitter sequined top? So what multiethnic clothes on which Kenzo Dutch-born designer who was formerly is the point of reviving culottes? If you want a silk print dress (a big interrogright trans-Atlantic blend of urban ation point) the lightly traced prints with sportswear with European refinement. a Japanese character were OK. But as a SUZY MENKES is the fashion editor of What emerged on the runway was a statement for the house, or even as a the International Herald Tribune.

follow-up to the decorative femininity of Elbazat his best, this collection was a blank sheet on which the design will have to start drawing a template for next season.

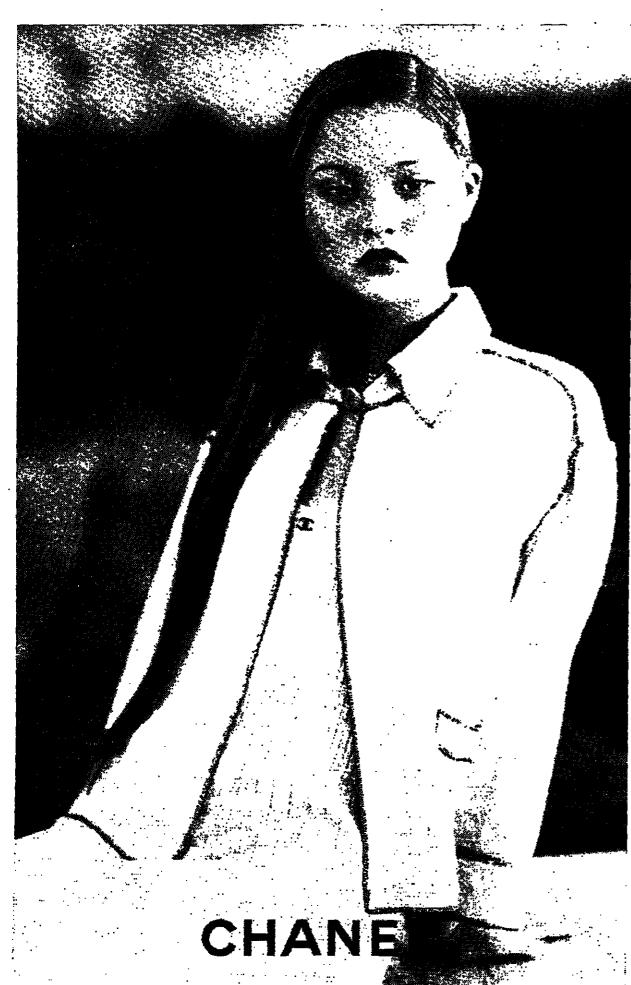
In a long and noble career, Issey Miyake has produced magical shows where inventive fabrics, ingenious clothes and an original mind came together in a poetic way. But this season's presentation was not one of them. Whether it was the distant venue, where paper sails fluttered on fine wires over a vast, empty space; or whether the clothes were just too abstruse and unappealing, the show failed to take flight — except at its finale when dresses unfurled into

fledgling bird wings.

The theme of the show was transformation. But, as any magician knows, you can't offer your audience the same trick twice. The APOC (a piece of cloth) which was snipped into a wardrobe on the runway last season, again opened the show, as the tubular jersey fabric that encased the models was attacked by assistants bearing scissors.

The rest of the clothes waved "an" like a banner — literally in the case of dresses carried on long poles down the runway to proceed relatively simple garments with weird surfaces. Shaggy, ragged effects made dresses and even shearling coats look as though they had been pecked apart in a bird sanctuary. Other Eskimo outfits with padded markings also looked as though they had been inspired by nature studies in the National Geographical Magazine and translated far too literally to the runway - a rare example from an exceptional designer of a blip in the creative process.

This should be Kenzo's moment and in a way it is. He has just been feted in New York where he won the "Time for Peace Award," when the United Nations ambassadors invited him to create a dress. That lilac satin embroidered gown was the finale to a show dedicated to rustic clothes and Renaissance princesses. That meant woodsy daywear -all earthy and leafy textures, with rugged curly lamb collars on sweeping coats and knits as hairy as some jungle beast. For give them any individual personality? and in the mud and brown colors, which Something fresh was expected at Guy might at least get through the winter over velvet gowns and coats with artistic patterns worked at the back. But while other runways are awash with the merry, built his reputation, the designer now inhabits another fashion planet.





صكرامن الأحل

FASHION / A SPECIAL REPORT

Combat pants, part of the original street uniform.

Is Utility Chic An Imposter?

By James Sherwood

ONDON - What have international designers learned from London street style? Well, they have seen the future and it is Utility Chic. They have drawn inspiration for the spring/summer 99 collections from khaki, Velcro, hip holster bags, combat pant pockets and trophy trainers. Utility is high fashion's spin on the urban street uniform. It's high fashion in a techno-sporty-dressed-down kind of way.

So unanimous was the utility drive that you would be forgiven for thinking Madame Mao had risen from the grave to give Miuccia Prada, Jil Sander and Ralph Lauren a master class in sartorial cloning. There is only one problem. Utility is an impostor. It is the '90s take on Marie-Antoinette playing milkmaid in the Trianon.

"In my opinion, Prada is copying styles that have been worm by the really cool people for years." says Browns

worn by the really cool people for years," says Browns
Focus buyer Monserrat Mukherjee. "You saw them in the
streets with cross shoulder bags from Man

COMMENTARY

hattan Portage, wearing the original camouflage, army surplus stock and knife-proof hooded jackets designed and made in dodgy Soho stores. The street uniform came from a truly creative bunch of stylists, DJs and students; all of whom didn't have a regular income. They made their own fashion identity. It is the kids who are the real survivors of urban life. They are the ones who make real use of streetwear simply because they are the ones who take the tube, get soaked when they are touting their portfolios around London in the rain and live the life."

Utility equips the high fashion consumer for a life she simply does not live. It isn't a jungle out there, urban or otherwise, for the woman who buys mainline Gucci. And there is something distasteful about spending three-figure sums for a designer's interpretation of the combat pant: a second-hand army surplus item originally bought for £7.

'Everyone on the British high street is bumping out copies of khaki Helmut Lang combats," says Max Karie. owner of the Soho boutique Shop. "And if big designers are copying street style, then it is disastrous: a vicious circle. Face it, nobody is going to buy labeled combat pants at Miu Miu when they can go to source at London army surplus store Laurence Corner or New York's Old Navy. It's a depressing thought that we will all approach the millennium wearing fleece. Shop girls are more into a bit of price from Tocca, a bit of glitter from Hysteric Glamour and a bit of fun from our own-label Shopgirl designed by former Bodymap designer Stevie Stewart. Sportswear is just a victim of its own popularity.'

Sportswear was a street uniform born in the dark ages of early '90s Grunge. The Puffa jacket, combat pants and trophy trainer were adopted by a generation of DIs, dealers, skate kids and underground clubbers. It signified the disillusionment of Generation X. These were cruel world clothes: wind, bullet and knife repellent fabrics cut into streamlined urban armor-plating. It was a don't-touch, Teflon-coated declaration of independence from the chichi fashion labels.

IGHT years later, street style is repackaged as sanitized, aerodynamic Utility Chic. No matter that the original sportswear "Gangstas" had grown up and opened conceptual art galleries or chains of sandwich shops in Covent Garden. In 1999, you would be forgiven for thinking Velcro, fleece, toggles and Neoprene are the new religion. There is no disputing the popularity of sportswear. People like it. People buy it. So a sportier designer line makes sense. Prada Sport? Fine in a youth context. Sportmax Code? Naturally for the new

*Could anybody really avoid the incredible power of a shoulder bag that carries everything for the daily battle or the attraction of a waterproof jacket?" says Monserrat Mukherjee. "Could anybody with a good business sense let these wonderful designs go without making millions out of them? But, that said, I like designers to be creative and adventurous and follow their own rules and instinct."

When a maverick designer like Donatella Versace translated the combat pant pocket into a pink crystal-encrusted couture gown for her debut couture collection, we knew the sport influence had gone too far.

Sport is a blanket term in fashion: a cover-alf label that unfairly implicates designers in the sportswear scam. American designers, in particular, have a heritage of sport courure stretching back to Claire McCardell via Zoran, Ann Klein, Halston and big three Calvin Klein, Donna Karan and Ralph Lauren. Sport countre is, in a nutshell, easy shape and luxe make.

The shapes may be sporty in a weekending, cruisy kind of American way, but they owe more to 1920s Coco Chanel on the Riviera than Michael Jordan on the basketball court. And you cannot mistake the Mark Eisen, Michael Kots, Narciso Rodriguez troika's four-ply cashmeres, bugle-bead spattered talle, 100 percent parachute silk and edible merino wools for Utility. These are self-indulgent, easy fabrics. Techno sport, meanwhile, is just plain lazy.

Understandably, the futuristic quality of test-tube fab-rics may appeal to some designers millennial tendencies. But why are we streamlining for the year 2000? Yes, we are becoming one global race. But that doesn't mean we need to be kitted out in stay-press, machine-washable synthetics like Barbarella every time we travel

A much more modern approach to uncertain times is identified by Matthew Williamson in the title of his auturn/winter 99/2000 show: "Glomad." "I am informed tumn/winter 99/2000 snow: "Giornad. I am informed by travel." he says. "I am working around a very eclectic, global approach to dressing: a grab-bag of cross-cultural references that, together, is uniquely interesting. Uniform references that, together, is uniquely interesting. Uniform dressing isn't in the vocabulary of the women I dress."

JAMES SHERWOOD is a weekly columnist for the Independent on Sunday.

When Art Mocks – and Inspires – Fashion

By Rebecca Voight

ARIS — "One thing is sure. There are more fashion designers who want to be artists than the other way around: "says Elein Fleiss, co-founder of Purple, fashion's artiest style review.

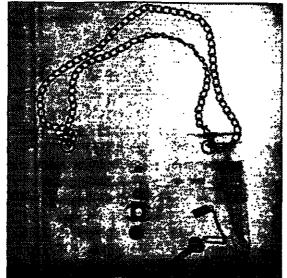
That may be true, but there are an increasing number of artists rum-maging through the collective closet. Their takes on the rituals of dressing and modern brand lust could pass for avant-garde clothing collections, or fashion ads.

The American artist Steve Miller's "My Mother's Vuitton Suitease" is an X-ray view of the bag filled with long-stemmed roses. For Miller, whose medically in-spired an employs CAT scans and microscopic views, fashion is irresistible. "It all started a few years ago when I was given a pair of Roger Vivier pumps to illustrate for a book. I never saw anything so beau-tiful. They looked like black Fer-raris, so I took them to the hospital and had them X-rayed.

Miller went on to explore his mother's designer shoe collection. And when he came to Paris, among the first to buy one of his purse X-ray paintings was the house of Chanel. "Fashion objects have incredible power. They are superficial and profound," says Miller. "We've gone from Andy Warhol's star system to the object system."

Caroline Smulders of the Thaddaeus Ropac gallery in Paris whose exhibition "Sous le Manteau" included the clothing-inspired work of 43 artists in 1997, says artists are obsessed by fashion. "It fascinates them because of the attention it generates," says Smulders. "Contemporary art has to get out of the gallery. The art world is too small. Very but more people watch fashion shows on television than will ever visit a gallery.

"Sous le Manteau's" catalogue looks like an advance plan of fash-



Artists are making forays into the fashion world and, in return, giving their own take on the rituals of dressing. At left. Steve Miller's "My Mother's Purse." ut right, Tom Sachs's "Pruda Valuemeal."

from silver Mylar varn have all been spire it a great deal. amply echoed on recent runways.

Herring, who collaborated with Rei Kawakubo for Florence's first An/Fashion Biennale in 1996, has been using knitting in his work for years. "The Biennale is a meeting of two different worlds. Rei and I tried edition of 100 of his own felt suits. to create a third world without over-

and that designers are into his work.

ion's forward moves. The photo- chairs and shelves with wood. His- crossover at times." Niels Klavers graphers Wolfgang Tillmans from tory doesn't lack examples of of the Netherlands considers him-always so opposed. "It's like a Germany and Dutch partners Inez artists" fashion forays. From the self a fashion designer, but his mul-game of Ping-Pong, says the artist Van Lamsweerde and Vinoodh painter Sonia Delaunay's "simul-Matadin participated in the show as taneous dresses" which injected artists. Since then they have been picked up by the fashion world. The artist Mathieu Manche's grotesque body parts stacked on a table and management of the bottle of the ficphotographed on models as accessor- tional Belle Haleine Eau de Violette, ies and Oliver Herring's coats knit artists mock fashion a little and in-

> OR HIS winter men's col-style of Joseph Beuys. And in "Art and fashion may get togeth-

lapping." he says.

Herring says he continues to knit
his pieces from coats to human figPurple's Fleiss. "Pascale Gatzen ures "as a process to transform and from Holland dips into fashion, but few people wear designer clothes, not a reference to fashion." But he she doesn't want to be trapped by it. concedes he is fascinated by clothes And photographer Wolfgang Tillmans limits his commercial work.

tiarmed jackets and layers of coats and pants with innumerable legs

young designers, all graduates of the Netherlands' Arnheim Academy during the Paris collections. Yet to produce a commercial collection, he already has attracted a fashion following. Even the French weekly Elle seems to be under his influence. The magazine recently devoted a fashion spread inspired by his mad layering, featuring pants, shirts and skirts piled on top of another, six or seven at a time.

Smulders was surprised by the number of visitors to Thaddaeus Ropac's recent show of Tom Sachs's "Creativity is the Enemy." The cur-rent works of the American artist designers mixed more then, there include what he calls ''dub ver-sions'' or remixes of designer logos was a constant exchange erything is too cut off. "It was funny to see Mylar sweaters show up on the runway two years later." Herring is now knitting fashion's rules, even if there is a Hermes happy meal. "Sachs had journalist based in Paris."

never shown in Europe before." said Smulders. "One would imag-ine he was unknown here, but many of the pieces were sold before the show opened."

The artist's dark, albeit humorous view of fashion's stranglehold on culture, didn't deter Paris's fashion community from turning out in force. For them it was just another big style event. But for Sachs, fashion is dead, or at least he has moved on.

Fashion, one of the examples of what he calls "cultural prosthetics," followed on the heels of his work with zip guns, the firearms made from bits of pipe used by street kids.

From fashion he has moved on to airplane toilets. "That's the only space where you can be alone on a plane," he says. The toilets are the starting point of the R&D phase for his upcoming show in New York next fall which, he says, will add transportation to his favorite themes: death, horror, genocide and

Fashion and art are, however, not Fabrice Langlade of the relationship between art and clothes. Langlade began his Chrysalides, a series based on dresses, for Smulders "Sous le Manteau" show. The dresses formed with an industrial plastic material that looks like a strip of glue, trace the words of the first two chapters of Mikhail Bulgakov's The Master and Margarita." He based them on a pattern supplied by his friend, the Italian designer Carlo Ponti. And now Barneys New York has taken one to introduce its Ponti collection in the store.

Langlade thinks culture has become too sectarian. "I remember, growing up in Paris in the early 1980s. Jean Paul Gaultier was a friend and I modeled for one of his was a constant exchange. Today ev-

REBECC4 VOIGHT is a free-lance

Paris Boutiques Showcase Artists and Designers

By Pat McColl

ARIS - While fashion designers often turn to art for inspiration, increasingly the fashion crowd is turning to the art world to add another dimension to its boutiques.

designed by Andree Putman, Karl she will have in the shop. Lagerfeld has been exhibiting his photographs — the current exhibition is of portraits printed on aluminum — on one level with almost magazines that Lagerfeld has chosen; plus a version of the Fendi 'baguette'' bag also designed by Lagerfeld.

The newest artist/designer boutique is that of Marion Lesage, 15 Rue du Pre aux Cleres, which opened last week. All the clothes, mostly made in India from fabrics of her choice, and the watercolors that line the walls of the shop are her thought they were so special that I "You can't really call them sculp-creation. As at the Lagerfeld gallery, just had to have them," said Ikewa. tures so that's why I call them 'aseverything is for sale.

dropped out to have a baby and to travel. Her travels took her to North Africa and India. the inspirations for most of her art. While in India, she worked with her brother Jean François, an embroiderer who lives there — their father is the couture embroiderer François Lesage. She created embroidered Since April, at the Lagerfeld Gal-flat slippers and, with her brother, lery, 40 Rue de Seine, in a space fabrics and his signature pillows that

Other objects are her flea market finds, ranging from seed jars from London's Kew Gardens to tiny metal lanterns that used to hang on the one-of-a-kind clothes displayed on a looms of fabric weavers in Lyon. In lower level. Sprinkled about the the same artisunal mood is a colboutique are art books and lection of bowls and plates made for Lesage by Christian Perrochon and ethnic jewelry by Dominique Biard.

Although Aziade Ikewa designs one of the six collections in her shop, La Boutique, 39 Rue du Temple, she is not an artist. But, when she came across the works of Alain Nahmais in a small museum in Montmartre, she transformed half her space into an art gallery. ' Sporadically in the six years since Lesage, formerly a designer for she opened her shop, she has held Indies, said: "Three years ago, I other art exhibitions. The reaction to



Interior of Lagerfeld Gallery. designed by Andree Putman.

Nahmais's 'assemblages' has been so positive that she plans to find other young artists and continue mixing clothes and art.

About his work, Nahmais says: "You can't really call them sculplook vaguely African, vaguely Na-

tive American. Up close, they are an art gallery, one for the clothes and mixes of bits of fabrics, roots, feath-accessories, and one with sofas and adding up to a witty charm.

was a felted wool tunic by a young Laotian designer. Yao Souka.

store?" who also only go by their first bands and crash helmets. names, admit that the concept behind L'Epicerie was Colette, the works of 50 avant-garde phomixed media boutique/gallery idea fashion show on Friday in the in Paris. As a backhanded compliment, one of L'Epicerie's best Meanwhile, at Colette. 213 Rue sellers when it opened last September was a T-shirt printed "Po-

They add that they are doing the semblages." From a distance, the concept their way. Their first priwall hangings and seated figures ority was to find a space with three PAT MCCOLL is a free-lance jourconnecting rooms: one to be used as nalist hased in Paris.

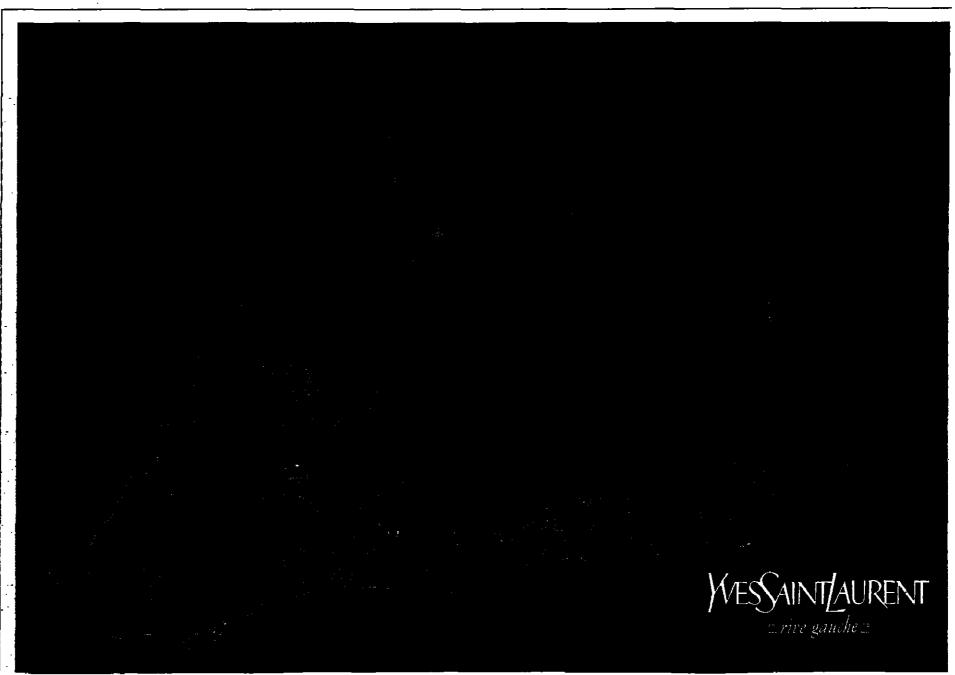
ers, even a pumpkin, with the bits a selection of avant-garde magazines where customers could

Ikewa's approach to the designers relax. Artus handles the art gallery, in her shop is to "work with my Antoine is fashion director and Rainstincts." A best seller this winter madane is the business manager. "We are a real art gallery and have 10 artists under contract." said

Artus. The 14 names painted on the T 30 Rue du Temple is boutique's door - from Marc Jac-L'Epicerie. Why call a obs to Jeremy Scott to Niels Klavers fashion boutique cum art to Gaspard Yurkievich - represent Everyone goes to a groers. Most of these designers are repcery store and we want everyone to resented by one or two outfits. The come here," said one of the shop's boutique also does its own collecthree creators, Antoine, who goes tion called Basics, which for spring only by his first name. He and his featured camouflage prints for associates. Artus and Ramdane. bomber jackets, cargo pants, watch

trendy boutique that pioneered the tographers. L'Epicerie will hold a

St. Honore, the gallery on the mezzanine level will feature Dutch photographers Anuschka Bloomers and Niels Schumm.



Accessory Designers in Britain Cash In on Their Eccentricity

By Roger Tredre

designers in London may be the unsung heroes of the city's revival as a fashion hotspot, the problem is some of them are victims of iheir own success.

Britain's accessory designers are spending much of their time creating oneoff pieces for other designers' runway shows in London, Paris and Milan time that could, and arguably should, be spent developing their own businesses.

For Scott Wilson, who first made his name in the mid-'90s with hard-edged body adornment pieces, this season was the moment to make a stand. Wilson's only tunway show for fall '99 was in Milan, a 30-piece Perspex collection for the British designer Rifat Ozbek.

I have had to turn down other runways. Says Wilson. It's time to build my own business.

Wilson, who studied jewelry design at Middlesex Polytechnic and millinery at the Royal College of Art, has previously worked on runway shows for Hussein Chalayan, Antonio Berardi, Julien Me-Donald, Tristan Webber and Thierry Mugler. He landed his first show, for Karl Lagerfeld in 1495, while still at college.

Scott's leather cuffs, bracelets, neckfaces and chokers, many adorned with mirrors, were being snapped up by buy-ers at the London Designers Exhibition last month. It appears he has made the right decision to focus on his own label

Wilson acknowledges the dilemma. "One-off pieces are the ultimate ex-pression of my work, but they can be very time-consuming. I just did shows for the first 15 months after leaving college. I remember Thierry Mugler paid me about £5,000, which sounded great, but by the time I had taken on staff and worked it all out. I was earning less than £250 a week.

On the other hand, as Wilson acknowledges, runway shows provide accessory designers with the press coverage they crave. Philip Treacy, the only British accessory designer to stage his own shows, made his name on the runway, particularly through his long-standing link with Chanel and Karl Lagerfeld.

But Treacy's high-profile shows (this season in both London and New York) are balanced by commercial collections. including a line for the high street department store group Debenhams.

Philip understands how the high street works and creates exquisite designs without compromising his style, says Belinda Earl, trading director of Debenhams.

Why are British accessory designers in such demand? For much the same point, "Of course, we are under pressure reasons as the country's clothing de- to use the major advertisers in our signers, "We are creative and eccentric shoots. And small British designers as a nation." says Lucille Lewin, owner don't have the money to advertise. of designer store group Whistles, "Thiswell into accessories.

Designers return the compliment by saying store buyers are proving much more adventurous.

For a change, they really love the unusual pieces." says Sian Evans, a "My phone hasn't stopped ringing, jewelry designer firmly in the creative she says. "I'm going to be kept busy." eccentric camp. " A few years ago, buyers would not have bought jewelry that didn't use traditional materials.

Evans's big hit for the fall: plastic and silver neckpieces and bracelets that close at the back with stationery file ONDON - While accessory clips. She found her inspiration while recovering in a hospital in France after a snowboarding accident. The slogans on the neckpieces read: "For external use only," and "This product may damage your health.'

Evans has also developed bracelets in a metal called niobium. It is light refractive and takes color very well." she says, holding out a shimmering piece.

They use it to make spaceships Another designer to make the most of unusual materials is Samantha Heskia. who has produced a collection of bags for fall covered with decorative water buffalo bone. "I found it in the Far East, she says. The real breakthrough was when I discovered it could be

Accessories can be a touchy-feely thing, just as much as clothes. Neisha Crosland's pure angora wraps and stoles were another London Fashion Week talking point. People just feel the fabric and love it, says Crosland.

A dose of creative eccentricity seems to infect anyone who chooses to make their home in London. Pamina Brassey, a New Yorker now living in London. makes Pamina jewelry from recycled glass fused with silver. "My main inspiration comes from wandering round Chelsea looking at cars that have been broken into. The broken glass glistens so nicely in the sunlight."

HAT do the inhabitants of Chelsea make of her? People do get bothered by me, hunched over the gutters picking up pieces of glass."

The most unlikely hit of the season

has been Ann-Louise Roswald's clogs. which have turned into a cult shoe. The run on clogs began last fall when Roswald's clogs were chosen for the Marni show in Milan, "It's like everyone has gone clogs mad. "says Roswald, still reeling with delight after a Japanese store placed an order for 250 pairs.

Roswald's Swedish father has been making clogs for 20 years. His daughter has designed them for fall in knitted lambswool and red leather. "And now we are going to be up all night over the summer making them for half the fashion world," laughs Roswald.

London's accessory designers have other gripes. Like the majority of the city's fashion designers, they are small businesses that depend on publicity. Magazine stylists are forced to use big names from Italy in their shoots. complains Samantha Heskia. We don't get much of a look-in.

One fashion editor admits she has a

Still, every editor worthy of the name sort of battiness translates fantastically enjoys hunting down and featuring the new. Anna Starmer, a new London designer who makes knitted lampshades. found one of her shades given pride of a place in a feature in the March issue of

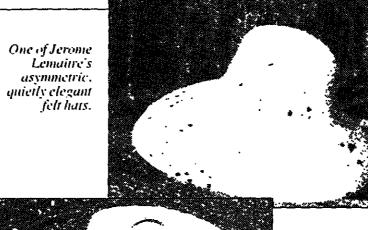
British Vogue.

ROGER TREDRE is a free-lance journalist based in London.

Getting A New Image Above, Lulu

Guinness's basket" bag. At left, Karl Lagerfeld's futuristic

hundhugs.



Earrings by Ibu. who likes to mix precious metals with clear plastic, feathers or shells.





Minimalism Got You Down? Take a Walk on the Wild Side

By Michele Loyer

ARIS — Signature accessories are out. Today, accessories must be imaginative—even a bit wild—or they won't sell.

"Women use them to define their personalities and introduce a poetic ele-ment into their daily lives," says Christian Lacroix.

The minimalist trend prevailing in today's fashion." adds Nicole Fischelis. vice president and fashion director of Saks, New York, 'needs the boost of colorful and exciting accessories. We are observing the emergence of a new breed of highly innovative products."

The boom is good news for designers and retailers. Accessories require less technical savvy for designers than ready to wear but generate high-profit margins for retailers. Often these are impulse purchases. Buying a bag or a hat has been also been als more to do with emotion than reason." says the avant-garde Parisian retailer Maria Luisa Poumaillou. "Even a conservative woman will at times feel like buying a really outrageous hat or hand-

Accessories, says Chanel's creative director, Karl Lagerfeld, "are very helpful to revamp a look that is becoming tired. But when they become too much of a signature, it's time to get rid of them!"

The iconoclastic designer has been

doing away with most of the Chanel clichés: Gone are the perennial camelias. pearls and monogrammed buttons, replaced by more contemporary accents. One of his recent bags, the futuristic body-molded 2005, is on its way to becoming a best-seller.

Innovation in accessories can mean the use of high-tech fabrics, while for daytime or eveningwear, it is often embellishment: intricate embroideries or beading on textile.

Like other specialty stores, Saks Fifth Avenue has enlarged and restructured its accessory departments and given them more pages in its catalogues.

Le Bon Marche, the Parisian bastion of traditional chic known since it opened at the end of the last century for the quality of its hat department, banks on its expertise with accessories to attract a top-notch clientele. When the store was revamped, accessories were given more space and strategically moved to the fore. "Our clientele has reacted very positively," says Jacqueline Segal. Le Bon Marche's accessory buyer. Maria Luisa uses her Rue Cambon

boutique as a showcase for the most creative international names. She recently opened a second boutique entirely devoted to the British shoe designer Manolo Blahnik, and her main shop carries handbags and hats designed by some with gold for the beginners. Jerome of the most individualistic — and zaniest — accessory designers. Right now the apprenticed with the last theatrical hatter. cious with embroidery or beading. 'More and more women are using bags as an ornament." she says.

ted with accessories." she says. "They just let themselves go their normal eccentric way and effortlessly express what the market demands."

As for the designers, they have one nalist based in Paris.

thing in common: strong individualism and an often-expressed desire to keep their business small and unencumbered.

Lulu Guinness is one of them. Nominated accessory designer of the year at the British Fashion Awards 1999, she quickly made a name for herself as an inventive handbag designer.

"I started designing bags because I always loved vintage accessories such as

the wonderfully eccentric and feminine Schiaparelli bags which I bought at the flea markets. I never wanted to design serious leather bags.

Instead, she started a cottage industry Her production is about 100 bags a sea-son, all handmade by a team of little old ladies" in the English countryside. Her delicate, ultrafeminine styles come in fabric or straw, with elaborate embroideries or beading. Her best-seller, the "rose basket," in black satin appliquéd with red roses, is on permanent exhibit at the Victoria and Alben

Museum. For his accessories, Manolo Blahnik often creates shoes for couture houses. exactly what they want are also the ones who give you more freedom to express your own ideas." Blahnik says. Work-ing for John Galliano has been a pleasure, he says, because "we share the same taste for extreme sophistication with a touch of European flair.

NE of the most consistent contributors to couture houses is Raymond Massaro, who has: followed his father and grandfather. Since 1894, when the first Massaro studio opened on the fashionable. Rue de la Paix in Paris, the order book. has read like the social register.

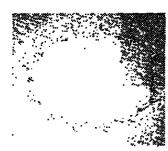
Several of the shoes he has created for \$\frac{1}{2}\$ couture houses now belong to history; the beige and black sandals designed for Coco Chanel in the '60s that became Chanel's signature and the ballet slip-pers designed for Madame Gres in the early '50s that, once adopted by Brigine Bardot, turned into the symbol of a bebopping generation and which, 50 years later, are making a comeback. Lately. Massaro designed a pair of iconoclastic black satin combat boots for Chanel.

Ibu, who emigrated from Poland to the United States at age 13, designs her own jewelry, mixing precious metals with clear plastic or feathers, shells or driftwood. Two seasons ago, Lagerfeld borrowed her heavy gold chain-belt and multiple strands coral beads rope to accessorize his winter '98 collection. Ibu's contribution to Chanel's spring. 99 couture collection are minimalistic diskshaped buttons in solid gold. But the road to success is rarely paved.

most novel accessory is the handbag, she in Paris, presented his first collection of says, which has gone from practical to hats for the winter 1999 season. Hisornamental: its size has become mini-ature and its look has been made pre-Some of the best boutiques and de-

hats, but the young stylist has not been British designers are extremely gif- able to afford a real workroom. He still molds his hats in the kitchen of his small. studio apartment.

MICHELE LOYER is a free-lance jour-



An 18-carat gold necklace by Joaquin Berao.



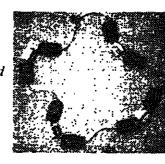
A silver hracelet in a Berao collection inspired by a heech forest.



necklace by Chus Bures from his "Vol de Nuit" collection.



"Kyoto" necklace by Sastre who has patterned her work on Miro's art.



Necklace of silver and rosewood designed hy Helena Rohner.

Spain's Vanguard Designers Turn to Distant Cultures for Inspiration

By Al Goodman

ADRID - What do the American literary icon Paul Bowles, the late Spanish artist Joan Miro and an icy national park called Torre del Paine in Southern Chile have in common?

Nothing much, except Spain's vanguard jewelry move-

Hungry for inspiration, a small cluster of designers who say that diamonds are not their best friends have turned to art. distant cultures and nature to spur their creative inices. The results include Chus Bures's new collection of hon-

eycomb and lattice jewelry based on Moroccan traditions,

Peter Keppler presents Gala Evening Dresses Cocktail Extravagance Couture

Prêt-à-porter on March 12-14, 1999 at the Hotel Prince de Galles 33 Avenue George-V - Paris

Salon Panache Tel.: ++ 33 (1) 53.23.77.77

Suits and Dresses Couture and Prêt-à-porter on March 12-14, 1999 at the Hotel Prince de Galles 33 Avenue George-V - Paris Salon Panache

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Sastre's sterling silver earrings and pendants patterned on mood. Miro's art and approved by his family.

There is also Joaquin Berno's latest sleek offering based on

the icy forms seen on his trip in 1998 to the Paine national park They brought art into the design of jewelry. Some are

pieces like sculpture," said Linda Heras, an American who works for the Spanish clothing designer Roberto Verino. Some are exaggerout. It's always the same. I try to ated. The necklaces are bigger. But it's wearable.

break out and give more feeling. And it is increasingly available outside of Spain, at

boutiques, museum gift shops, even department stores. The jewelry based on the artist's work, such as his characteristic prices range from about \$27 to \$6,700. Berao, 53, and Sastre, 54, are the veterans of the movement. Bures, 41, has perhaps dabbled in the most sidelines, such as debuted in 1993 for the centennial of his birth and the items outsized wool curpets and black damascene vessels. There are also relative newcomers, like Helena Rohner, 31, who produces two jewelry collections a year to keep pace with

clothing designers. Berao started at age 15 in his brother-in-law's jewelrs workshop in Madrid. But like the other vanguard designers here, he traveled abroad extensively in his formative twenties. and charted an unorthodox course.

"Traditional jewelry never breaks out, It's always the same. Berao said. I try to break out and give more feeling and sout." Berao fashioned spiral bracelets in the 1980s with titanium, long before Frank Gehry used the material to cover his Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao. But lately Berno has focused on gold and silver - somewhat more traditional, he concedes - yet with his special volumes, like weighty rings. or nature themes.

A \$180 pendant features a single, almond-like silver lobe, to

which won him a tare endorsement, used in promotional reflect the pureness of the ice in the Paine park. There is also flight number from Madrid to Bangkok that Bures rode materials, from the expatriate Bowles in Tanger, Or Chelo a version with three lobes, adjustable to fit the wearer's

Another recent Berao collection was based on the Irati beech forest in northern Spain, and it includes a \$233 silver pendant with flower-like petals that can be held closely together or separated along the silk cord.

Perhaps the most commercially established of his group, Berao had sales last year of about \$1.7 million and he *Traditional jewelry never breaks plans to double that within

five years. Sastre, of Barcelona, lived with Miro's grandson, the poet David Miro, until his death in 1991. The Miro family then asked her to create

curvy moons. The collection of sterling silver pendants, earrings and pins

still sell, ranging from \$45 to \$150. Sastre has come a long way from her provocative jewelry in the 1970s meant to be worn on the breast, which women tended to use under see-through blouses. Her latest collection "Series 2000," in which many of the silver pieces have holes of one sort or another, she said, "to go from one century

to the next. Chus Bures, a Barcelona native, began designing clothing accessories in the early 1980s in Madrid but gained fame for creating the sterling silver hair pin, with three sharp prongs, that the leading lady in Pedro Almodovar's 1986 film, "Mataused to kill her lovers. The item still sells, for about

Bures has since made collections based on Federico Garcia Lorca sketches, in time for the centennial last year of the poet's birth, or another based on Thailand.

He called the latter series "TG-943," for the Thai Airways

frequently a few years ago to study traditional arts there. A \$1,250 silver necklace in the collection has kind of a knit

pattern, as delicate as rice puffs. "My clients, whether 18 or 80, have something in common culture." Bures said. "The taste for history, for art."

Bures's newest collection of jewelry, carpets and objects based on old Moroccan crafts has won praise even from Bowles, whom Bures said he visited in Tanger late last year. securing permission to use the elderly author's tape-recorded endorsement that was dictated to an aide.

"Chus Bures . . . takes what exists in Morocco and transforms it for the contemporary world," Bowles was quoted as saying. "I would say that more people like him are needed to expand knowledge and open the view."

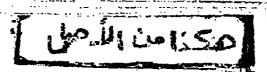
HE COLLECTION includes a \$1,065 handmade silver "Mbabek" necklace of chainlike, layered rings. Rohner, in keeping with her up-and-coming status, has her headquarters in Madrid's historic Hapsburg district, unlike the more upscale Madrid and Barcelona addresses of her older predecessors in the jewelry

Swiss on her father's side and Spanish by her Canary Islands mother, Rohner earned an international relations degree at the London School of Economics and then plunged into

She said she prefers to design small pieces, in keeping with her own petite size. She uses such combinations as the coolness of silver and the warmth of a rich tropical wood, like rosewood, to fashion a \$213 necklace, or a bangle of silver, chony and olive, for \$145.

"I generally design for myself, what I would wear." Rohner said. "I don't want it to be inaccessible, but to complement.

AL COODMAN reports for The New York Times from







WORLD ROUNDUP

Executives Resign

SOCCER The power vacuum at the top of British football widened Thursday as the English Premier League's chairman and chief executive resigned.

The Premier League announced in a statement: "Today's meeting of the FA Premier League club chairmen has accepted the resignation of Sir John Quinton as chairman and Peter Leaver as chief ex-

South Africa on Top

CRICKET South Africa dominated the opening day of the second test against New Zealand in Christchurch on Thursday.

The visitors dismissed the home team for a meager 168 in its first innings. South Africa then reached 54 for no wicket in its own first

Sampras and Hingis Lose

TENNIS Pete Sampras and Martina Hingis, the world's top-ranked tennis players, both lost Wednesday to unseeded players in parallel tournaments on the same court in Indian Wells, California.

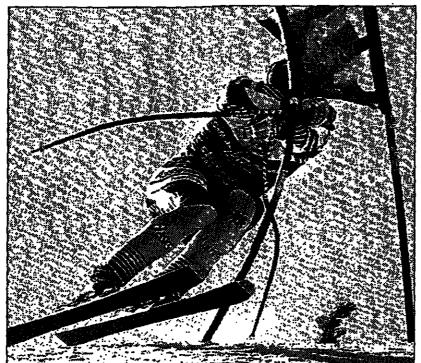
In the afternoon, Chanda Rubin controlled her Evert Cup quarterfinal to beat Hingis, the defending champion, 6-3, 7-6 (6-2). Later, errors as Felix Mantilla took a 7-6 (8-6), 3-6, 6-3 victory in their Newsweek Champions Cup quarterfinal match.

Hingis credited Rubin for outplaying her, while Sampras was left to look for reasons for his sloppy performance.

"I'm just scratching my head, just wondering what happened," he said. "Obviously, I haven't played many matches this year. It showed tonight." (AP)

Penguins Win in Overtime

ICE HOCKEY Kip Miller scored with 2 minutes, 11 seconds left in overtime as the Pittsburgh Penguins rallied from a two-goal deficit in the third period to beat the bost Carolina Hurricanes, 3-2, in the National Hockey League, (AP)



Hermann Maier crashing into a gate in the super-G final Thursday. He placed seventh, but won the seasonal championship in the discipline.

Kjus Closing In on Title

He Earns 50 Points by Finishing 4th in Super-G

SIERRA NEVADA, Spain - Christian Mayer gained his first super-G victory Thursday, but the winner of the overall title might be the man who fin-

Lasse Kjus of Norway picked up 50 points, improving to 1,409 in the overall races left — the slalom Saturday and the giant slalom Sunday — Kjus is 92 points ahead of a fellow Norwegian, Kjetil An-dre Aamodt, and 102 in front of Herman Maier of Austria.

Maier, who had won four consecutive super-Gs and had already clinched the season title in that discipline, placed seventh Thursday while Aamodi was 16th. Maier picked up 36 points but Aamodt got none since only the top 15 finishers get points in the World Cup finals.

Maier, overall World Cup winner last season, was asked if he still had a chance. "Of course," he said. "Next year."

Aamodt, the 1994 overall champion, Kjus, who won the overall title in 1996, and Maier are all strong in the giant

slalom. But Maier is a weaker slalom skier than the two Norwegians and has said he would not ski in the slalom this weekend. Since he trails by 102 points and can pick up a maximum of 100 in giant slalom, that would concede the overall title to one of the Norwegians.

Late Thursday, however, it seemed World Cup standings. With just two that Austrian team officials had pressured Maier into racing both the final two events. "Hermann goes to the sla-lom, it's 99 percent fixed," said Manfred Kimmel, a spokesman for the Aus-

Maier said that a tailwind in super-G helped skiers who raced upright, but not himself since he skis in a tuck position. With most eyes on the top three in the

overall World Cup standings, the Austrians swept the first three places in the super-G on Thursday. Mayer finished in I minute, 28.71 seconds, followed by Andreas Schifferer in 1:29.06 and Josef Strobl in 1:29.53.

The women's super-G was postponed from Thursday to Friday because of high

Soccer Isn't One of the Paris Sights

Even After the World Cup, French Capital Lacks a Serious Team

By Peter Berlin

Paris was the capital of world sports and a million people danced on the Champs Elysees to celebrate win-

ning a soccer game. In the months since France won the World Cup, it has been difficult to sustain the illusion that this is a soccer city. London has six clubs in the English Premier League. Madrid has Real, the world club champion, and Atletico. Rome has Lazio, the Serie A leader, and Roma, one of its chief pursuers. Berlin is unified behind resurgent Hertha. Paris. meanwhile, has had Barnum & Bailey FC performing soccer slapstick at one end of town and the empty Stade de France at the other.

Yet for one night, Paris imitated a city with a passion for soccer. Red Star, a second-division team, rented the Stade for its match against St. Etienne on Wednesday. Ninety minutes later, Paris St. Germain, the pratfalling first division club, kicked off against Nantes at Parc des Princes. An enterprising fan with a car could, if the périphérique flowed smoothly, see most of both games. A journalist from L'Equipe, the French sports daily, did just that. He took along an anglophone hitchhiker.

The double-header was not unprecedented. Racing Club and Stade Francaise used to share the old Parc des Princes and would, on occasion, play back-to-back, offering fans two firstdivision games for the price of one ticket. But those two clubs have long since tumbled from sight, to be replaced by PSG, whose history has been pockmarked with financial problems and mercurial changes of fortune.

Red Star, by contrast, is one of France's oldest clubs. It is based in St. Ouen, a working-class suburb sandwiched between the Paris city boundary and St. Denis, home of the Stade de France. It has won the French cup five times but is now floundering at the bottom of the second division and is lucky to attract 3,000 fans to a game. On Wednesday, 45,000 came to see it try the Stade for size. It's a safe bet that the extra 42,000 didn't come to see the hapless home team.

second-division match -- 42,584 -- set in is easy to understand why. 1985 by Wednesday's visitors, St. Etienne, the club that dominated French attendance of 40,640. In truth, many of quarterfinal replay.

of the biggest draws in French soccer.

There was also something that Gaetan Desruelles, the Stade de France directorgeneral, called the "Stade effect." This is, after all, a stadium whose official tours draw thousands of visitors even

when nothing is happening there. "The Stade de France showed that it is an attraction, whatever the nature of the event," Desruelles said Wednesday.

The ticket prices — from 43 francs (\$7) to 63 francs — helped too. The approaches to the ground teemed with schoolchildren. Inside, the ring of executive boxes was deserted. The sponsors' guests and nouveau fans who made up such a large part of every World Cap crowd also were missing. Even though 35,000 seats were empty, there were probably more lifelong soccer supporters in the Stade than for any previous match.

Even so, the fans struggled to create an atmosphere in the huge bowl of a stadium. Afterward, St. Etienne players, who play their home games in the im-posing Geoffrey-Guichard Stadium, complained of the lack of intimacy.

The stadium also performed the double trick of making the players look smaller yet magnifying their many errors. They were, after all, treading in the bootprints of France and Brazil.

T. ETIENNE WON, 2-1, to strengthen its grip on first place in the division and push Red Star closer to relegation from the second division. If it slips down a division, its hopes of becoming the permanent tenant would be put on hold. Stade authorities have said they won't settle for less than a second-division team. They also say the club should have an annual budget of 50 million francs, a tiny amount in modern sports, but it could pose problems for Red Star, which has a budget of 35 million francs. Even so, it plans to be back.

"We will try the experiment again before the end of the season," said Jean-Claude Bras, the club president, "This test has been a huge success."

The Stade de France is a glittering sports palace in one of the capital's poorer and uglier suburbs. In the ritzy 16th district of Paris, PSG makes its home in an ugly, minimalist, claustrophobic concrete The crowd broke the record for a bowl: the unprincely Parc des Princes. It

soccer in the '70s. St. Etienne remains one the 24,000 season ticket holders have stopped showing up, and there were patches of empty seats along the tve sides of the ground, where tickets cost up to 300 francs. But the two ends, where the younger and rowdier fans congregate, were full. The noise they made, though with a harsher, more disappointed edge than at the Stade de France, filled the arena. It is difficult to imagine a visiting player saying he wanted more

intimacy with the "Bonlogne Boys."
The New York Knicks basketball team and the New York Rangers ice hockey team still have to adjust their schedule when the circus comes to Madison Square Garden each spring. This season, Canal Plus, the French television network that owns PSG, seems to have taken the process a step further: PSG has become the circus.

The squad changes with dizzying speed. Sometimes players seem to be signed for marquee value rather than their ability to win games: Come see the amazing Nigerian Ball Juggler! The Mighty German Defender! The Italian Striker Who Wears Blue Gloves! And you don't like them, never mind, they I all be gone by the summer, replaced by new acts. Even the ring masters are switched every few months as Canal Plus desperately works through the ranks of its executives in search of one who knows something, anything, about running a soccer club and each new president quickly fires the coach and then fires the next one, too.

Meanwhile, PSG slides down the French league. On Wednesday, it drew, 0-0, with Nantes in a dreary game that left it 12th in the 18-team league.

It was a match that raised doubts. If this was the best soccer Paris can offer, then it still isn't a soccer city.

■ Batistuta Inspires Fiorentina

Gabriel Batistuta returned from injury and inspired Fiorentina to a place in the Italian cup final. Batistuta came on in the 66th minute, after Bologna had taken a 2-0 lead, to level the two-leg aggregate at 2.

2. He did not score but drew Bologna. defenders, freeing teammates. Fiorentina looked more confident with its ace on the field, and scored twice in extra time to draw, 2-2, and win 4-2 overall.

 Dwight Yorke scored a goal in each half Wednesday as Manchester United On Wednesday, PSG drew a declared beat Chelsea, 2-0, in an FA Cup

Virengue Is Back, and the Fans Love It

By Samuel Abt International Herald Tribune

IRMINY, France — The woman at even when things were going badly." the start of the Paris-Nice race wore the red and yellow colors of the Polti team and carried a large sign that read "Richard Virenque, we love you. The Tour de France isn't the same without you."

Perhaps Virenque noticed the sign as he rode to the ramp of the opening time trial Sunday and perhaps he didn't. He did not acknowledge it, however, keeping his eyes straight ahead, trying to remain focused, concentrating on his work, not his reputation. He rode the 9 kilometers (5.5 miles) from the Paris suburb of Boulogne-Billancourt to the posh Avenue Foch off the Arc de Trihe had been heartened by the many fans cheering for him along the way.

The bad boy of French bicycle racing is back. Although Virenque may live in Switzerland and ride for an Italian team, he remains the darling of French fans. especially squealing teenage girls.

As Paris-Nice completed the fifth of its eight days on Thursday, in this sunny town in the southeast, it is clear that much of the public is on his side. When he is introduced each morning in a different town, he is loudly cheered; when he crosses the finish line each evening, adolescents rush to get his autograph.

23 "I Am a Camera"

----Te Ching"

at a press conference that his Polti team a great part of the public. called. "The fans never let me down, not

hour meeting with two dozen reporters, glancing often to his right side, where his directeur sportif, Gianluigi Stanga, was sitting. Virenque gave the impression that he did not want to say anything amiss. At the start, he made it clear that he would not discuss the past.

This is his first race on native soil since the season started last month and only his second since he and the rest of the Festina team he led were expelled from the last Tour de France on charges of systematic use of illegal performanceenhancing drugs.

The 29-year-old Virenque has never omphe just as seriously but said later that admitted this, unlike six other members of the nine-man Tour team. The Swiss riders who confessed were banned from the sport for seven months and the French riders for six months. One other rider retired, a second voluntarily accepted a six-month ban without admitting anything - leaving only Virenque to continue insisting that he has never

failed a drug test. As has been pointed out many times, that is not the same thing as denying the accusations made by his former team coach, doctor and personal masseur and

have fan support," he said Wednesday completed. No matter, all is forgiven by

Everything is going well," he said.
"I'm happy. I'm feeling familiar sensations now that I'm racing again. All's well." His familiar cockiness was gone, replaced by a slightly hunted look.

Virenque discussed his program for the season, which is weighted with races in Italy, including the Giro d'Italia, where, he said, he will ride to support Polti's other top climber, Ivan Gotti, who won the Giro two years ago. "It's going to be the toughest tour I've ever ridden," Virenque said of the mountains in Italy.

A few weeks later he plans to lead his team in the Tour de France, where he was the king of the mountains from 1994 through 1997 and which he has often called his main interest in the sport and even his only reason for living. That second definition was delivered the day he was expelled from the Tour.

"The Giro will be difficult," he said Wednesday. "The Tour will be different. I'll ride it with my usual ambitions, hoping to do my best."

He has been discreet in Paris-Nice, showing himself only twice on attempted breakaways on the flat that the other riders quickly thwarted. But that was just professional reflex, not animosity.

As a rival said, asking that his name not be used: "Good luck to him. Whatever he did, you don't like to see a crosses the finish line each evening, confidant. Virenque is still under official whatever he did, you don't like to see a investigation and faces legal action rider lose his job. Maybe he'll get away when the inquiry into the Festina affair is with it, after all."

SCOREBOARD

EXHIBITION BASEBALL

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BASKETBALL

NBA STANDINGS LASTIEN CONFERENCE TIC DIVISION

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14, Knight 5-9 4-4 14; P: Manning 6-123-4 15. Gogliotta 7-17 2-2 16. Rebounds: Cleveland nic 49 (Morris 9) . Assists:

rray 8-15 3-3 21, Taylor 3-12 9-12 15: Lokers: O'Neal 12-23 7-12 31, Fox 6-13 Taylor 6), Lakets 71 (O'Neal 13). Assists: Clippers 12 (Nesby 4), Lakers 17 (Bryant, Fox

NAT'L INVITATION TOURN'T

- FUEST INCOUNTS Xavier 86, Toledo 84 Rutgess 58, Hofstra 45 Clemson 77, Georgia 57 Old Dominion 75, Seton Hall 56 Vake Forest 73, Alabai Wate Forest 73. Alabama 57
Princelon 54. Georgetown 47
North Carolina State 92. Providence 86
Burler 51. Brudbey 50
Nebrassia 68, UNLV 55
Colorado 55. Peppertine 61
Colorado 55. 69. Alississispi 51. 56
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NHL STANDINGS

HWEST DIVISION

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Carolina 9 9 2 1—3
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(cp). Sacced Peried: O-Yashin 37, (cp).
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Ol-thus

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11 (Vepat Bardeleou) 5, C-Martin 2 (Dars)

Land 2, C-Theomory 13, Olicaris, Gilmour) 17 (Vapat Baracienius s. Santalit, Glimou 500. 6. C-Zhajanov 13. (Olczyt, Glimou 12. Chámnov, Thibati

(Reid, Zubov) 5, D. Nieuwendyk 18 (Charobers, Zubov) (pp). 6, E., Laroque 3 (Lindgren, McSörley) 7, D (Matvictrok, Lehtinen) 8, D-Mc

F-Lindgren 5 (Geerin, Horariik) Shets en godt E-6-10-9-25, D-7-5-9-21, Godiest E-Essenso, Striclenkov, D-Beltov, Venocover 6 7 2 8-4 Auchelm 2 2 0 0-4

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Koriya 28 (McInnis, Recchin) (pp). Secure
Period: A-Seignne 37 (Rucchin, Oligusson)
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S. A-Koriya 29 (Rucchin, Oligusson) (pp).
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Zemanost 7, Milliostand (27 (Milliosi))
(pp). or). 7, V-Nosland 33 (Ohio ind) (ap). 8. V-York 6 (Muckett, Nastund), Overtime: Name. Sharts on good: V-12-8-8-28. A-15-

TENNIS

HEWSWITH CHARPONS CO

SECOND ROUND Chris Woodruff, Knoorffe, U.S., def. Paul Hacetwis, Netherlands, 7-6 (77-9), 6-3. Greg Rusedski (10), Britain, def. Scott Droper, Australia, 6-3, 6-3, Mark Philippoussis, Australia, def. Alex Correlia (3). Spain, 4-6, 7-5, 6-2.

U.S., 6-2, 7-6 (7-4). Todd Martin (11), U.S., def. Francisco Claret, Spain, 6-2, 3-4, 7-6 (7-4).

Marcelo Rico (6). Chile, def. Cedric Pioline. France 7-6 (7-30, 6-1, Karol Kucera (12), Slovalda, def. Lleyton lewitt Australia, 7-5, 6-3.

Xavier Malisse, Belgium, def. Garan (van-isovic (14), Croatic, 7-6 (11-9), 6-3. de U.S. 6-7 (3-7), 7-5.7-5. Jan Sjemerink, Nethe Melioeni, Brazil, 6-4, 7-6, 6-4. U.S., 7-6 (B-6), 6-4. Felix Mantilla, Spain, del. Pete Sc

(1), U.S., 7-6 (8-6), 3-6, 6-3. EVERT COP MEDHERDAY IN BIDIAN WELLS, CALSE

(1), Switzerland, 6-2, 7-6 (7-2), (4), Crech Republic, 6-2, 6-0. Servino Williams, U.S., def. Mary Pierce (6), FIGROR 7-5, 7-6 (7-1).

SOCCER

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE Derby 2, Aston Villy 7 Nottingtom Forest 1, Newcostie 2 Leads 2, Tottenham 0 Blackborn), Everton 2

STAMBRESS, Monchester United 57, Arsen-of 53, Cheises 53, Leeds 48, Aston VBin 44, Derby 41, Wimbledon 40, West Hom 40, Liv-erpool 39, Newcastle 38, Totlenhom 36, Shef-held Wednesdoy 25, Middlesbrough 33, Leicester 33, Eventon 31, Covenity 30, Charlion 27, Blackborn 26, Southampton 26, Matthewayers Services Services 26, Southampton 26, Matthewayers Services Services 26, Southampton 26, Southa Nothingham Forest 17.

LYGA 2 Auxerte 1 Strasbourg L. Bastin STANDARD DOTUBLIA DE MICHAELLE AT MONDE LYON 47: Manacor 42: Remise 41; Mardes Lune 38: Montpellier 30: Bostia 32: Anna 31; Metz 30; Paris S-G 29: Strasbourg Toulouse 26: Lorient 25; Nancy 24: Le Ho

THE WALLS

CYCLING Paris-Nice

4. Matures our screen, Ness, Magoorus, S.I. S. Gitlamo Figuerus, Haly, Mopel, s.I. Owerest: 1. Boogerd, 20 hours, 27 minutes, 28 seconds; 2. Andrei Tichail, Belgium, Lotto, 16 seconds; belgind; 3. Wanters, 24 seconds behind; 4. Den Boldes; 25 seconds behind; 5.

ALPINESKIING

WE:

WORLD CUP FINALS M.ER's Survey. 4. 1. Christian Mayer, Austria, 1 minute, 28-71. 2. Andreas Schifferer, Austria, 1:29.06. 3. Josef Strobl, Aastria, 1:29.53.

L Losse Kius, Norway, 1:29,54. . Steve Locher, Switzerland, 1:29,79. Fredrik Nyberg, Sweden, 1:29.83. 8. Jernel Kobiar, Slovenia, 1:29.97. 9. Benjamin Raich, Austria, 1:30.15. 9. Benjamin Raich, Austria, 1:30,15.

10. Fritz Strob, Austria, 1:30,28.

\$UPER-G: 1. H. Maler, 516 points: 2.
Stephon Eberharter, Austria, 330; 3. Scoterer, 262; 4. C. Mayer, 252; 5. Horn Knows,
Austria, 233; 6. Rainer Sutzgeber, Austria,
212; 7. Kjus, 208; 8. Fritz Strobi, 172; 9. Kjeffi
Andre Austradt, Novaros, 165; 10. Lenter, 1:57.

CRICKET

Andre Azmodt, Norway, 167; 10. Locher, 157; (Red) Paul Accola, Switzerland, 157.

OVERALL:). Kips. 1,409; 2. Asmodi. 1,317; 3. H. Maier, 1,307; 4. Eberharter, 1,029; S. Schifferer, 901; 6. Knauss, 87; 7. C. Mayes, 697; 8. Werner Franz, Austria, 614; 9. Michael

SECOND TEST, PERST DAY THURRDAY IN CHERETCHURCH, M New Zealand: first inns, 168 all out South Africa: first inns, 54-0

TRANSITIONS

NATIONAL BASICETBALL ABSOCIATION
CHARLOTTE—Traded G Glen Rice F J.R.,
Reid and G B.J. Armstrong to L.A. Lakers (G);
G Eddie Jones and F Elden Compbet
Walved F Joe Wolf, Signed F Travis Williams to 10-day contract.

LA CLIPPERS— Placed G Sherman

on from intered list. LA-LAKERS -- Wolved F Corie Bloumt and G B.J. Armstrong. Activated F Ruben Patterson **K.J. NETS—Walved G Doog Overton**

SACRAMENTO - Walred F Ray Owes.
FOOTBALL NATIONAL POOTBALL LEAGUE
BALTIMORE — Signed TE Agron Pierce to
2-year contract. GREEN BAY -Signed LB Toran James. JACKSONVILLE—Re-signed DT Jose White, S Blaine McElmonty, OL, Mark Non KAHSAS CITY—Signed LB Lamont Holling

MARQUETTE Fired Mike Deone, me ouskelboli cooch. NOTRE DAME—April of John MacLead, mens basisetaal coach.

-

bosketboll coach.
SAMT LOVIS Amounced retirement of

CROSSWORD

6 Countiess

a Milko Prefix

9 Not many

ingredient

11 Start of a holy

12 Fashion mode

13 "Hyperion" poet

18 Friend of Nancy

22 Some antiques

24 Enumeration

26 Helped with a

brother, in myth

29 Tiny, informally

27 Brynhild's

21 Yummy

10 Béarnais

7 Back

1 Eerie feeling	semi
7 "Alice" spin-off	25 Leans (on)
10 Badlands Natl.	25 Portaged
Park locale	23 Of a tert fruit:
14 Brightest star in	Prefix
Draco	30 Mohawk River
15 "At Seventeen"	city
singer Janis	31 Admonition to
14 Sound	the unhip
17 Occasion to give	35 Clockmaker
a speech	Teny
19 Albania's last	36 Te Chine
Communist	(classic Chine
president	work)
20 Greek	38 Yemana's
consonant	portrayer on "Samey Miller"
21 Something often	39 Singer Sumac
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Solution to Puzzle of March 11

HUAC SNARE ADOS STRIKET TLUNERS

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author Charles 46 Time for a break 47 Bleedemiths Sto Requirect. old-style 52 Wasn't rebellious 54 Bird grp.

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65 Dangerous DOWN 4 Billet-doux beginner z Write with a point a "The Battle With the Slum"

author

Clooney's

5 Red-carpet

32 Dental worker 33 What a folder wouldn't say 34 Little kick at Discomfitting 41 Like water or wind 42 Gives a hand 44 Org. with many

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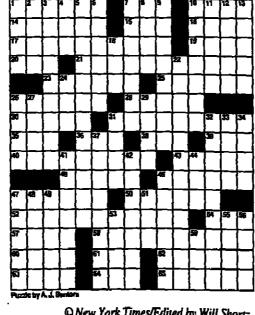
e.g.

53 Chimp in

space

47 Crossing swords 49 Dragon's blood, some calls 56 Frank or Francis 59 South Korea's

O New York Times/Edited by Will Shortz Internet address:



http://www.iht.com

صكناس الأصل

SPORTS

مكزامن الكمو

Lakers Send Clippers To 17th Straight Loss

Defeat Ties Record for Worst Season Opening

By Lonnie White Los Angeles Times Service

inglewood, California — After falling short of the mark five seasons ago, the Los Angeles Clippers finally earned a spot in the NBA record book for consecutive losses to begin a season.

Although the Los Angeles Lakers did their best to spoil the moment by playing down to the level of their crosstown

NBA ROUNDUP

rivals, it was not enough to prevent the Clippers from losing their 17th consecutive game, 94-75, on Wednesday. It was the ninth straight victory for the Lakers.

The Clippers, who lost 16 in a row to open the 1994-95 season, are tied with a figure for the league record, set in 1988. rivals, it was not enough to prevent the

Miami for the league record, set in 1988-89, the Heat's first season. If there ever was a game for the Clip-pers to win, their final meeting against

the Lakers this season was the one. Not only did they catch the Lakers shorthanded and playing their most lethargic game since Kurt Rambis took over as bach, eight games ago, but they also field a houble-digit lead for the first time "We stayed with them for three quar-

ters and then we fell apart," said Maurice Taylor, a Clipper forward. "It really doesn't anger me. It just disap-points me. We haven't been able to play the kind of basketball we know we are able to play.

If Shaquille O'Neal had not shown up, Taylor may have been celebrating. O'Neal played 34 minutes and had a game-high 31 points and 13 rebounds. Playing with a limited roster because 11th setback in 12 games.

of the trade earlier in the day of Eddie Jones and Elden Campbell to the Charlotte Hornets for Glen Rice and J.R. Reid (who were not at the game) and B.J. Armstrong (who was waived after the trade), the Lakers won the hard way.

Dennis Rodman played only seven minutes before being thrown out in the third quarter. Rodman, who had six rebounds, was not in the game at the time and had his warm-up top on, but said one too many words to an official, who had already called a technical on Rodman in the first half

The play of the Lakers was so ugly that Forum fans sarcastically chanted "Eddie, Eddie, Eddie" in tribute to

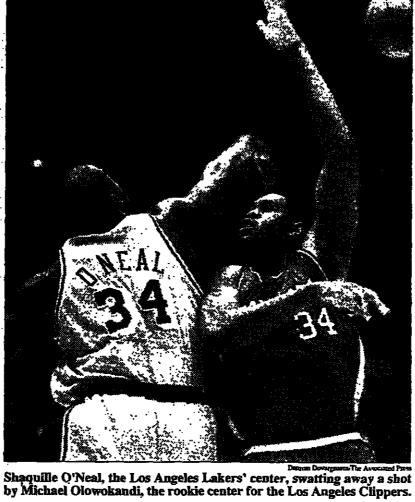
The Clippers, who held their biggest lead of the season at 29-18 in the second quarter, led, 52-47, midway in the third quarter before the Lakers woke up.

Triggered by a lucky three-point basker by Robert Horry, who was attempting a lob pass to O'Neal under the basket, the Lakers outscored the Clippers, 47-25, over the game's final 18 minutes. In other games, The Associated Press

76ers 85, Hornets 70 In Philadelphia Allen Iverson had 25 points, seven assists and five steals as the 76ers beat a Charlotte team that dressed only nine players because of the trade with the Lakers. Wizards 97, Pistons 87 Juwan Howard

had 22 points and 11 rebounds as Washington beat visiting Detroit. Pacers 93, Nets 82 In Indianapolis,

Rik Smits led Indiana with 20 points and New Jersey went nearly eight minutes in the second half without a field goal as the Nets suffered their fifth straight loss and



88, Hawke 78 Tim Hardaway decisive 16-2 run at the beginning of the gained their eighth consecutive victory

Bucks 101, Sonies 97 In Milwankee, victory over his former team.

Spurs 81, Magic 79 David Robinson scored six of his 21 points during a hit two free throws in the final 18.5 seconds --- his only points of the second third quarter to carry Miami. The Heat half, and the only points by anyone in the final 4:47 — to lift San Antonio to victory over visiting Orlando.

aliers 86, Suns 73 Shawn Kemp Glenn Robinson scored 22 points as the scored 18 points and Cedric Henderson Bucks gave their coach, George Karl, a got all 14 of his points in the second half as Cleveland won in Phoenix.

It's Madness to Believe NCAA Players Graduate

By Ira Berkow New York Tones Service

NEW YORK - March Madness is a catchy, alliterative phrase designed to draw attention - preferably pecuniary - to the National Collegiate Athletic Association's Division I men's basketball tournament, which began Thursday at eight sites around the United States.

I don't recall it being called March Madness until a handful of years ago, when it became a big-time attraction on television, having swelled from a dozen or so teams to 64, a tournament big enough to choke a horse.

Part of the madness — which is acmally pretty sane for the TV network, the organizers and the schools, since

VANTAGE POINT

they stand to make millions of dollars from it — is demonstrated by the TV cameras focusing on some of the brilliant students in the crowd who look as if they've had buckets of paint, in two and three colors, spilled on their heads. Added madness is the brassy bands in the arena playing deafeningly loud.

And then there is the basketball itself, invariably a wonderful show. The Cinderella teams, the buzzer-beaters, the Clash of Titans, etc. But for all this, there is a level of suspended disbelief that is necessary to these nutsy pleasures. One would like to believe, for instance, that all of these basketball players are also true

students, struggling with their calculus. The sad fact is that college basketball players have lower graduation rates than most students. And the black basketball players fare worse than the white basketball players.

In the latest annual survey by the NCAA, compiled in November, male evidence to support allegations of acabasketball players continued to graduate at rates far lower than other students. "For the eighth consecutive year," wrote the Chronicle of Higher Education, "the rate of Division I male bas- for the game were Kevin Clark, Miles ketball players was far below the rate for all male students at those institutions. which in 1997 was 53 percent.'

The association found that only 41 percent of men's basketball players who exams and did other course work for entered college in 1991 had graduated players from 1993 to 1998.

within six years, down from 45 percent the year before and the second-poorest showing since the association began its graduation-rate survey.

White male basketball players graduated at a rate of 47 percent — their lowest total in the NCAA graduation-rate survey - compared with the overall graduation rate for white male students of 56 percent. The graduation rate of black male players fell to 37 percent in 1997 from 39 percent in 1996.

Emerge, a black-oriented magazine, has a "Bottom 50" listing that names the 50 worst Division I schools in regard to graduation rates for both blacks and whites. Several of this year's glorious March Madness schools are on it, in-cluding James Madison, Ohio State, Syracuse and Cincinnati, all of whom have graduated no black players for at least five years. And while the first three of these schools graduated 67 percent of their white players, Cincinnati was an equal-opportunity school in having graduated no white players, either.

"The statistics aren't good, and it's a dilemma," said Kenneth (Buzz) Shaw, chancellor of Syracuse University and chairman of an NCAA group that is studying basketball issues at Division I colleges. "We're working on it and hope to help improve it."

Meanwhile, here comes March Madness, that annual assault on the senses, wherein for some three weeks we gaily suspend disbelief and then return to sober reality.

■ Minnesota Suspends 4 Players

University of Minnesota officials declared four basketball players ineligible to play, hours before the school's firstround game against Gonzaga College in the NCAA tournament, saying there was demic fraud against them, The Associated Press reported from Minneapo-

The four players declared ineligible Tarver, Antoine Broxsie and Jason Stanford. Tarver and Clark are starters.

A former university employee said she wrote papers, helped with take-home

Oklahoma State Upends Syracuse as Tourney Opens

flowers into the church. The services The funeral procession was set to

Tadded 21 to lead ninth-seeded Oklahoma

State to a 69-61 victory over eighth
Cowboys (27-14) ahead to stay.

Caught the Cowboys only once at 57-57. ander and Mason hit both ends of a bonus opportunity in the final minute.

Syracuse (21-12) started cold, hitting seeded Syracuse in the first round of the NCAA basketball tournament Thursday.

Peterson, who matched his career-high of five 3-pointers, hit his first two shots behind the arc to put his team 'ahead, 6-0, in the South Regional con-tempts from the foul line in the final

Compiled by Our Staff From Disputation

The Desmond Mason from the free-throw line late in the game, ored 28 points and Adrian Peterson

Test. Syracuse, hurt by cold shooting 3:32. Oklahoma State, meanwhile, made its crucial foul shots. Glendon Alexorated Adrian Peterson caught the Cowboys only once at 57-57.

Test. Syracuse, hurt by cold shooting 3:32. Oklahoma State, meanwhile, made its crucial foul shots. Glendon Alexorated Adrian Peterson caught the Cowboys only once at 57-57.

Test. Syracuse, hurt by cold shooting 3:32. Oklahoma State, meanwhile, made its crucial foul shots. Glendon Alexorated Adrian Peterson caught the Cowboys only once at 57-57.

In the second round on Saturday, Oklahoma State will play the winner of No. 1 Ambum vs. No. 16 Winthrop.

Etan Thomas, who led the Orangemen with 21 points, missed three-of-five at- trailed 33-30 at the break.

DiMaggio Is Eulogized in Private Ceremony

SAN FRANCISCO — Joe DiMag-gio, the New York Yankee great whose gio's casket was carried outside to a Beach Street on its way to Holy Cross

gio, the New York Yankee great whose baseball skills and marriage to Marilyn Monroe helped make him an American icon, was enlogized Thursday by his brother, Dominick, at Saints Peter & Paul Church in a private funeral mass.

Sevent limonsines pulled up to the church at about 10 A.M. under a sunny sky, bringing about 50 family members and friends to the service. Bud Selig, the U.S. baseball commissioner, was among the mourners. Six pallbearers, including DiMaggio's estranged son, Joseph Paul DiMaggio Jr., carried the brown casket covered with white of the service on its way to Holy Cross casket was carried outside to a watting hearse, a crowd of about 200 Cemetery in nearly Colma.

Joe Jr., who had not talked with his dad in two years, was DiMaggio's only child. His mother was Dorothy Arnold, whom DiMaggio divorced in 1943.

DiMaggio wed Monroe in 1954, and they divorced later that year.

Oliveri led the service for DiMaggio.

The 79-year-old priest, who had they divorced later that year.

Oliveri led the service was a regular funeral Mass, including Psalm Joseph Paul DiMaggio Jr., carried the brown casket covered with white

Syracuse (21-12) started cold, hitting just five of its first 19 attempts from the field. The Orangemen were able to stay in the game with the help of 12 Oklahoma State turnovers in the first half and

Jason Hart scored 17 for Syracuse.

Hawkeyes beat Alabama-Birmingham in the first round of the NCAA tournament West Regional in Denver.

Iowa (19-9), the No. 5 seed, advances to play Saturday against the winner of the Siena-Arkansas game.

The victory extended, at least for one more game, the lowa coaching career of Tom Davis, who has led the Hawkeyes to nine NCAA tournaments in 13 seasons. Davis was told last year that his contract would not be renewed after this

season.

Alabama-Birmingham (20=12) never led, but the 12th-seeded Blazers made several runs in the second half behind the scoring of Fred Williams and DeWayne Brown. Williams finished with 26 points and 14 rebounds and Brown scored 16. Back-to-back 3-pointers by Damon Cobb within a 27-second span got

Alabama-Birmingham within 54-53 with 7:44 Jeft. Maryland 82, Valparaiso 60 Maryland,

among the favorites to reach the Final Four, defeated Valparaiso in Orlando, Florida, in a first-round South Regional

The Tenrapins got 17 points from the guard Steve Francis. They advanced to face the winner of a later game Thursday between Creighton and Louisville. (AP, Bloomberg)

10 Years On, Princeton Gets Its Revenge on Georgetown

The Associated Press Ten years after Princeton nearly shocked Georgetown in the NCAA you have a body on someone." tournament, the Tigers finally beat the

was no surprise. Mason Rocca, a junior making his first career start, grabbed 18 rebounds

Hoyas in postseason play. This time, it

THE NIT

and Brian Earl scored 18 points as Princeton beat Georgetown, 54-47, entire game, while Georgetown sub-Wednesday night in the opening round of the National Invitational

Tournament

so tall, you have to keep battling in there and you always have to make sure

In 1989, 16th-seeded Princeton almost pulled off the biggest upset in NCAA tournament history before losing to top-seeded Georgetown by one point. This time, the Tigers (21-7) were favored over the visiting Hoyas (15-16), who finished with their first losing record since 1973.

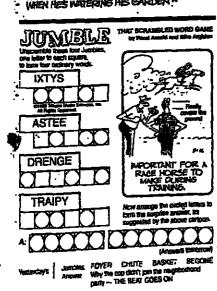
All five Princeton starters played the

stituted freely. Princeton's coach, Bill Carmody, said the scheduled television

time-outs helped keep his team fresh.
'I didn't go in thinking about play-"I knew I was starting 30 seconds before the game," said Rocca, whose rebounding total was the most by a Princeton player since Bill Bradley had 21 against Columbia in 1965. "They're really get tired."

DENNIS THE MENACE

NEVER ASK MRINISON A STUPP QUESTION WHEN HES WATERING HIS GARDEN!"



Internet address: http://www.iht.com THE WORLD'S DAILS NEWSPAPER

PEANUTS

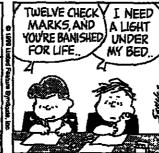


TAKING A LOOK AT TOMORROW'S WEATHER...

I DON'T THINK THE TEACHER KNOWS IF I'M HERE OR NOT HERE.



THE HIGH TEMPERATURE WILL BE BETWEEN 40



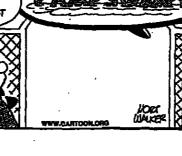
















CALVIN AND HOBBES









WIZARD of ID





NON SEQUITUR



DOONESBURY







Cook Your Wine, Sir?

By William Grimes New York Times Service

NEW YORK - A new wine service in New York: with a younger wine." How do you want that cooked?

For many years, Americans have confounded the rest wine director at the Hudson of the world by drinking their white wines too cold and their Burgundy from Verget, one red wines too warm. Som- of my favorites, but I made meliers no longer hesitate the customer, who was very when diners ask that a luscious Corton-Charlemagne be plunged into an ice bucket.

They just do it. It's easy.
Red wine poses a different problem since it often arrives at the table with a slight chill. If the diners want their wine the temperature of a blood trans- the water, which is the main fusion, and fast, the sommelier must resort to wiles, and the willest wile of all, it turns out, is the microwave oven.

Sometimes it's the customer, sometimes it's the hardpressed sommelier who makes the decision to go nuclear. But it happens.

"There is no way any sommelier is going to admit to do not mind employing all doing it," said Dan Perlman. wine director at Veritas. "They'll say, 'I've heard of it,' like I just did. I'm in the clear, though, because we don't have a microwave."

The practice is by no means widespread, or even widely known, but it is something that happens at even the top restaurants. Alexis Ganter. wine director at City Wine and Cigar, reacted with stunned silence when informed about the microwave trick. Then he juice to his Mouton-Rothlet out a long, shuddering sigh and moaned, "Oh my God."

Like other members of the "wine is a living thing" school, Ganter expressed deep fear of this new technological breakthrough. Others showed a native American willingness to at least experiment.

Ralph Hersom, wine director at Le Cirque 2000. "I don't see that it would harm a wine, question is creeping into but I'd recommend doing it

Some fessed up, some expressing shame, others not. "I did it once," said Eric Zillier. River Club. "It was an '85 insistent, swear he would never tell anyone I did it." So what, if anything, is the

problem? Christian Butzke, an enologist at the University of California at Davis, said: 'The microwaves are heating constituent of wine. If you do that for a very brief period -10 seconds maximum -- no

other chemical reactions are going to take place, and noth-ing will be destroyed."

The same sommeliers who shrink before the microwave sorts of nontechnological tricks, like running a decanter under warm water before pouring the wine in, replacing glasses on the table with ones that have just come out of the dishwasher, or even putting the bottle in the dishwasher.

Perlman of Veritas has a lot of stories. There's the customer who wanted the Champagne decanted to get rid of those annoying bubbles, and one who wanted to add fruit schild to make a sangria. Perlman suggested a more modest red. The customer said no. He wanted a good sangria.

"You get a sick feeling in the pit of your stomach, but you do these things," Perlman said. "After all, the customer is paying for the bottle."

An Oxford Historian Who Takes It to the People

By Alan Riding New York Times Service

WINDSOR, England — Niall Ferguson likes to joke that he became a historian by default. "At Oxford, I discovered that I couldn't be a politician, I wouldn't make a terribly good journalist, I was a very poor double-bass player and I was an absolutely appalling actor," he said. "I came to realize that what made me happy was to sit in a library reading about dead people."

His choice of A.J.P. Taylor as a role

model, however, suggests he was not exactly yearning for seclusion. "Alan Taylor was the first historian I had ever heard of as a schoolboy," he recalled, "and I had heard of him because his books were commercially. successful and he did television, newspapers and radio." At the age of 20, then, even before graduating from Oxford, Ferguson had understood it was possible to be both a respected academic and something of a pub-

What perhaps the soft-spoken Glaswegian did not imagine was that he would achieve this double-billing — "The Intelligent Pophim - so early in his career.

Now, just weeks before his 35th birthday, he is a Fellow of Jesus College, Oxford, and author of an appropriately learned tome, "Paper and Iron: Hamburg Business and German Politics in the Era of Inflation, 1897-1927." But he is also the most talked-about British historian of his generation, thanks to frequent newspaper articles and interviews on television and radio, along with two new books aimed at nonacademic readers.

into two volumes in the United States, with the first 608-page volume, "The House of Rothschild: Money's Prophets," issued in December. Ferguson's other new book, "The Pity of War," about World War I, which appeared in Britain in November, will be published in the United States next month.

Eager to have the books read, Ferguson chose to publish them with commercial houses, which helped assure him a large number of reviews - almost all excellent -as well as a fresh flurry of press interviews. The books in themselves also stirred debate since both present what historians would consider discoveries (for example, that Nathan Rothschild was almost bankrupted



ulist," as The Spectator magazine has called Niall Ferguson outside Windsor Castle, in front of a statue of Queen Victoria.

by Napoleon's defeat at Waterloo or that Scottish soldiers in World War I routinely killed their German prisoners).

For Ferguson, though, the main difference tween, say, his German inflation book and The Pity of War" lies in their presentation. Cambridge University Press will produce a book that is intimidating to read, the print is small, the footnotes are on the page," he explained. "Penguin will produce a book

Ferguson knows he is risking the disapproval of his academic peers when he reaches out to the general public. "I think it is a minus in the eyes of the majority of academics, who are deeply suspicious of

media dons' as a phenomenon," he said. Yet he insists that he is continuing an old tradition. "The idea of the academic as somebody who is dedicated purely to scholarly activities, who will address only an inner priesthood who speak the higher jargon, is a very modern idea," he said. "I think that, for a modern historian, engagement with the media is terribly good for you."

specialized in economic history and Germanhistory because he felt expertise in these areas might serve him well outside the academic world. But he also says that knowledge of history can enrich debates about contemporary affairs, whether the topic happens to be post-Cold War Europe, the conflict in Bosnia Herzegovina or even whether the stock market bubble is about to burst.

Since the late 1980s, he has embraced journalism. "Zola said that journalism is the books aimed at nonacademic readers.

"The World's Banker. The History of the House of Rothschild," published as a single 1,309-page book in Britain, has been split at the texts of the two books, it's not that big a shift."

Explained which has pictures, good charts, looks nice, journalism. "Zola said that journalism been should bash their prose into shape," he noted, adding that aggressive editing of his early work taught." him to write more clearly. And he answers his academic critics by challenging them to expound and defend their views in public. 'It is much harder to convince television

viewers than your students," he said. Ferguson's political foes call him a rightwing historian or, more generously, an intellectual conservative, although he describes himself as a liberal fundamentalist. Either way, he seems to be a product of strongly in the market and in individualism and is opposed to government intervention in In fact, by his own admission, Ferguson Britain's joining the new European cur- new mistakes."

reacy, the euro, although he claims to be "a

very European person culturally." And he insists that he is skeptical about ideologies. "I think being a historian is a terribly good cure for ideological rigor," he said with a laugh, "because it's very hard to see any ideology withstand the experience of 200 years of modern history.

Thus, if Ferguson had to name an underlying belief, it might be old-fashioned research, like the four years he spent working on his doctorate on German inflation. His massive history of the Rothschilds, which covers the period from 1780 to 1918, was the result of five years' work financed partly by a research fellowship from the British branch of the Rothschilds, who also arranged for him to become the first outsider to gain

access to the family's archives.
"The Pity of War," originally inspired by his grandfather's stint on the Western Front, also involved extensive research, which led him to go against the conventional historical tide and conclude that World War I could have been averted. This prompted some critics to tag the book "revisionist."

This week, he was in Windsor Castle working in the Royal Archives in preparation for his next book, a history of the Saxe-Coburg family, which supplied much of the 19th century's European royalty (including Prince Albert, Queen Victoria's consort). On a year's sabbatical from Oxford, Ferguson is also spending time at the Bankor England working on a long-term study of the bond market.

He also has been working on "Virtuit History: Alternatives and Counterfactuals: a collection of essays about the "what ifs" of history. "Virtual history" stands at the ceater of his approach to the past. Specifically, by examining the uncertainties, dilemnas and options of history - for instance, "Would World War II have occurred without Hitler?" - he challenges the inevitability of history and the supremacy of ide-

ologies.

I began to realize we have a fundamental problem with historical philo-sophy," he said. "Some people just don't think the past could be any different. And that leads to the belief that history repeats itself. I think there's nothing more dan-Britain under Thatcherism: He believes gerous than people who exercise the power of prophecy on the basis of a deterministic theory of history. As Alan Taylor said, all the economy. He has spoken out against we can learn from history is how to make

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THE rapper ODB has been jailed after L pleading not guilty to a charge of violating a new California law that prohibits violent felons from wearing body armor. The singer for the group Wu-Tang Clan declared himself unable to post \$115,000 bail Wednesday. Jones was pulled over for driving erratically in Hollywood on Feb. 16, and police arrested him after discovering he was wearing a bulletproof vest — a violation in light of his previous arrests. At the Los Angeles hearing, a prosecutor suggested that ODB was the head of a street gang called the Wu-Tang Clan. "I think that is a musical group," Judge Kevin Brown said. "I have three children. That's why I second-degree assault in 1993, and is awaiting trial on other charges.

The former Spice Girl Geri Halliwell has sold her autobiography for about £1 million (\$1.6 million), The Daily Telegraph said Thursday. Quoting her literary agent, the paper said that Halliwell, who quit the chart-topping girl band in June, had sold the British rights to Transworld for £500,000 to £550,000. The American rights were reported to have been sold for a slightly lower figure.

his wife, Jane Fonda, were fined \$600 for landing in Argentina without passports, an immigration official said Wednesday. Turner and Fonda simply forgot their travel documents when they left the United States, an immigration The media mogul Ted Turner and spokesman said in the southwestern city

Grant to Children's Book Author Is Replaced

WASHINGTON — An American foundation has announced that it will New York Times Service W provide money to replace a National Endowment for the Arts grant that was canceled when the endowment chairman learned that it was for a children's book written by a Mexican guerrilla leader.

J. Patrick Lannan Jr., president of the J. Patrick Lannan Foundation, said it would give \$15,000 to subsidize the printing of an English translation of a Spanish book, "The Story of Color," by the rebel leader Subcommandante Spanish book, Marcos. The chairman of the arts endowment, William Ivey, canceled the grant Tuesday when told of it by a reporter. Ivey said he was worried that some of the endowment money might find its way to the Zapatista guerrillas in Chiapas.

In 1989, the foundation, named for a late Chicago executive, gave \$35,000 to the Washington Project for the Arts for a show of homoerotic photographs by Robert Mapplethorpe that the Corcoran Museum of Art had canceled. The Corcoran show also had received some money from the endowment. The book is a folk tale about Mexican gods who fill a gray world with brilliant color.

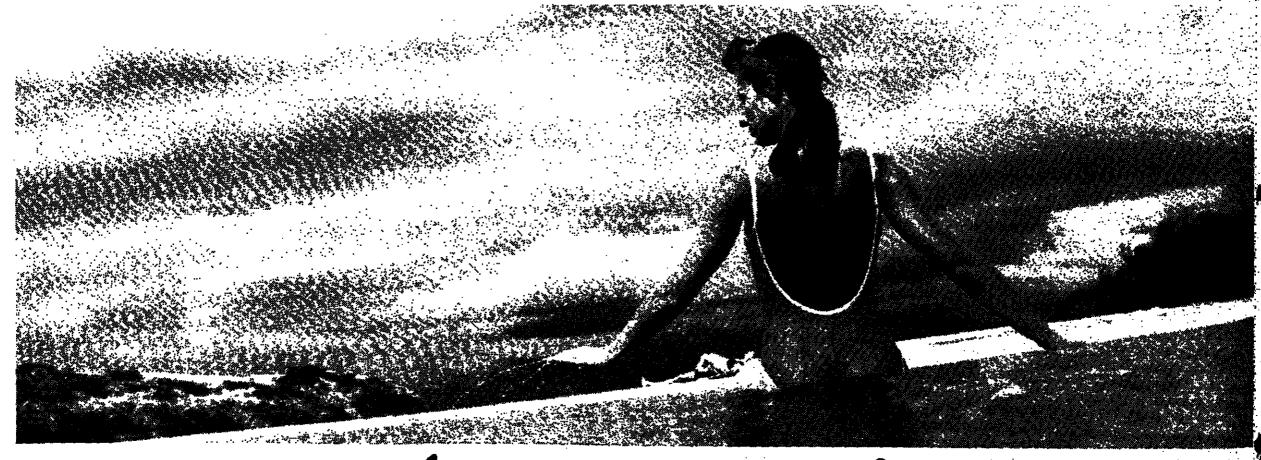
of Bariloche. He said that the couple arrived aboard a private jet and that Argentine authorities allowed them to enter the country through an "exceptional authorization" clause under current immigration law.

The Italian architect Renzo Piano has been picked to design an addition to the Art Institute of Chicago to be completed by 2005. After an 18-month worldwide search, the institute announced late Tuesday that Piano, who last year won the Prizzer Prize, was its choice to de-velop a plan for additional galleries and a

Cher's ex-manager is suing her for unspecified damages, alleging that he had a deal to receive 15 percent of the profits of her hit album "Believe." Bill Sammeth said in a lawsuit filed in Los Angeles that he was fired as her manager without explanation just days before she sang the national anthem at the Super Bowl.



INSPIRATION — Richard Gere posing with a Tibetan nun in Dharmsala, India, on Thursday after a teaching session with the Dalai Lama.



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